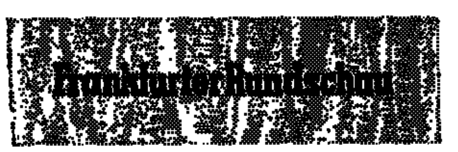
The German Tribune

Hamburg, 22 July 1979
Eighteenth Year - No. 899 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Western oil reappraisal makes slow headway



The summer recess in Western industrialised countries has merely interrupted, not ended the energy debate. Anxiety over supplies and all they entail for the economy and employment is by no means over.

Resolutions at the Strasbourg and Tokyo summits achieved initial international agreement on two points.

Governments of the major industrialised countries have acknowledged that oil output will not increase in the years ahead and agreed in principle that no-one is to import more Opec oil than is his due.

Within the European Community ways of offsetting growing demand for oil in Italy and Ireland are under consideration, given that a ban would halt their economic recovery.

A number of leading industrialised countries have embarked on more or less drastic savings and allocation measures. Others, like West Germany, have contented themselves with calls for thrift.

They are confident that common sense will prevail, aided and abetted by higher prices for motor fuels and central heating oil.

But there is no guarantee the Opec countries will continue to be able to supply as much oil as last year even. A fall in output due to political circumstances as in Iran could recur there or elsewhere.

All Opec's Arab members are subject to tension arising from the Palestinian problem and the Islamic resurgence.

All that can be said with any certainty is that successful enforcement of higher oil prices will dissuade Opec countries everywhere from marketing more of their irreplaceable commodity than hitherto.

Saudi Arabia may have declared its intention of stepping up output, but only temporarily, to combat this year's Iranian shortfall and ensure that the industrialised world survives next winter.

This year, for the first time since 1975 and the aftermath of the 1973/74 oil crisis, economic growth in the industrialised West seemed on the road to lasting recovery.

In the long term it began to look like unemployment could be cut back. But the recent round of oil price increases will halt the trend before the year is out, or so the OECD estimates.

Indeed, the Paris-based organisation representing Western industrialised countries forecasts fresh economic crisis next year unless governments take energetic counter-measures.

In the EEC the number of people of working age will continue to increase until the end of the eighties at least, so if full employment is to be restored jobs will need creating not only for the currently unemployed but also for the annual influx of school-leavers on labour markets.

In Strasbourg and Tokyo all were agreed that alternative energy sources must be developed as fast and energetically as possible.

In the years ahead (not to say for the next decade or two) coal and nuclear power will be indispensable and the only realistic standby. Inexhaustible alternatives such as solar and geothermic energy must not be neglected, however.

An independent working party commissioned by the EEC Commission in Brussels has stated the case even more succinctly, saying no investment will hold forth greater promise than investment and job creation in research and industrial development in any way associated with energy-saving or alternative energy.

Common Market countries would thereby not only keep their economies ticking over and create new jobs but also ensure industrial competitiveness on world markets for decades to come.

Developing countries too, as they gradually industrialise, will need to find some substitute for petroleum as an energy source.

A fundamental error that has recurred in the US energy debate (and at times in West Germany too) is the distraction from basic problems caused by the immediate fuel shortages on one side of the Atlantic and skyrocketing heating oil prices on the other.

Politicians are worried voters might panic, worried as they also are by the nuclear hazard and the risk of coal pollution, and have taken to making out that the changeover to a post-oil industrial era will be gradual and harmless.

Bonn Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer, for instance, has shelved until after next year's general election additional government spending on urgently-needed structural change.

In both countries, the United States and West Germany, crucial changes in the way of life have been neglected. In both, the motor industry and allied trades are mainstays of the economy.

Besides, a car of one's own is a psychological symbol of individual freedom, allowing the individual to drive off and break loose from the constraints of society at a moment's notice.

It is a 'must' if people are to live in the countryside or even, in many cases, to take a holiday.

For wage- and salary-earners in all categories on both sides of the Atlantic gas guzzling at will is both an achievement of civilisation and a means of escaping from it.

As long as both Europeans and Americans are able to heat their homes with oil in winter, there will continue to be enough motor fuel as a petrochemical byproduct.

Western European motor manufacturers may even go through a short-term boom in sales of models that go easy on fuel consumption.

But in the long term realignments will be inevitable and need planning with care to avoid mass unemployment.

There are politicians in both Washington and Bonn who regard prices as a market mechanism that is sacrosanct, whether they be the price of fuel or the price of housing near the city centre.

But will prices alone bring about indispensable changes in time and without social and political havoc? It is beginning to look increasingly unlikely they will.

Erich Hauser

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 July 1979)

IN THIS ISSUE



Schmidt visits Norway

Norwegian Premier Odvar Nordli (left) welcoming Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt to Oslo on 12 July. In two-and-a-half hours of frank talks they dealt with East-West ties, disarmament and energy, economic and research collaboration and the North-South conflict. (Photo: dpa)

Brandt Commission to finalise North-South report

The Brandt Commission has held its eighth and final plenary session in Vienna. Bonn SPD leader Willy Brandt is chairman of the International Commission on Development Affairs, to give it its full title.

The commission will now finalise the draft of its 200-page report and recommendations that are due for discussion in Brussels at the beginning of October.

The report will then be submitted to UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and the commission will break up, having completed its task.

Herr Brandt told journalists in Vienna how important it would be to succeed, in the next ten or twenty years, in linking disarmament with aid for the poor countries and famine relief.

Enormous sums of money could be saved as a result of disarmament and must be spent on helping to bridge the gap between North and South.

Both arms limitation and development aid were in the interest of world peace, and if they could not be combined he did not feel mankind would survive the turn of the millenium unscathed.

Famine led to war and arms potential at a certain level almost automatically did so too. People in the industrialised countries must be made to understand

Continued on page 3

WORLD AFFAIRS

Helmut Schmidt sees eye to eye with Pope in private audience at the Vatican

Speaking of his visit to Pope John Paul II, Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said he had been very moved.

Does a statement such as this, coming from the Chancellor, have political significance? Such questions can lead to tactical hesitation, and to human reserve, as was evident when the writer spoke to Helmut Schmidt, after his long Vatican day, under a hot Roman night sky.

There was also an element of reserve next day at the official press conference when Herr Schmidt said the visit had no operational significance and generously stated that the Pope was responsible for their relaxed, unforced, friendly and cordial talk.

This was no state visit in evening dress and regalia. The Chancellor wanted to pay a private visit to Pope John Paul, whom he had met in Cracow in 1977, and to get to know him personally.

Were there any open questions to discuss? "We have no problems with the Vatican," said the Chancellor, and that applied also to the question of GDR dioceses on which the Bonn Opposition always insisted.

The Foreign Ministry, where many regard themselves as diplomatic outposts of the Opposition and hoped to turn defeats in Bonn into victories in Rome, had provided the Chancellor with an expert on international law. But he had nothing to do.

Since 1975 Helmut Schmidt has been assured by Cardinal Casaroli, reaffirmed



on this occasion, that Bonn will at all events be consulted on this thorny issue.

The Chancellor knows how cautious the Curia is in most matters and assumes that the interests of those directly involved — in this case the East German Church and the bishops in the GDR — must be decisive.

This is precisely the thinking of the Pope himself, though it is not that of many a party tactician.

Having correctly understood the Pope's style and mentality, Schmidt's concern was a quite different one:

"We did not talk about prepared documents by cardinals or civil servants, we talked to one another like men who know this world and sometimes suffer from existing circumstances and believe we can make our contribution towards improving things."

After Pope John Paul II's first journeys to Latin America and Poland, there were many points to be discussed.

Schmidt briefed the Pope on his talks with South American cardinals such as Lorschneider and Ricketts, from whom he heard accurate analyses but not convincing views on how to overcome social injustice.

The Pope said this was not the business of the Church but on the other hand he agreed with Herr Schmidt that the Church should be more specific in its appeals on development.

Being specific is also difficult in the area the Pope knows best and where Schmidt also has experience: Eastern Europe. Here, too, the conversation was not about routine diplomatic matters.

It was about a conception of Europe which sees the value of nations (even if they were or are divided) not in terms of ideological differences but of a common Christian cultural soil.

This means that reality in Eastern Europe can be regarded with more differentiation, including the different layers of Marxist inner lining.

It is clear Pope John Paul approaches these problems with more keenness of perception than previous popes but that for precisely this reason he is thoughtful, cautious, in the full realisation that much has yet to be weighed up and thought over.

This is an attitude that in the final analysis is not influenced by the fact that there is much in the Western system with which the Pope is not, or is not very, familiar.

Georg Leber, who was took part in the second half of the one-and-a-quarter-hour talk, complained of the hatred preached in some Communist countries and of how, even as Defence Minister, he had tried to keep this mentality of the Bundeswehr.

"Hate cannot be repaid with ha[te]," the Pope agreed. He agreed with [the] Chancellor that "rejection of com[mu]nism must not be turned so fa[r ...] hate."

This corresponds to the Pope's exp[eri]ence that Marxists, too, are honest [...] though often unsuccessfully, strive [for] more justice for mankind, as he said [in] Poland recently.

What can Helmut Schmidt, a Chr[is]tian who is not motivated by denomina[tio]nal enthusiasm or utopian politi[cal] enthusiasm, have got from this intelle[c]tual tour de raison in the Vatican?

That religion has its place not only [in] our private tribulations but also in pu[b]lic life was never for him in doubt — [al]though he knows that this has alw[ays] been disputed, not only since the R[us]sian Revolution.

And even Catholic social dog[ma] which the Chancellor admires, is fin[al]ly only a framework which must be fi[lled] with different situations.

Can the return to the Christian fo[un]dations of Europe so dear to the Pope's heart (Christian Europe sounds too e[x]clusive for the Chancellor's liking) al[so] contribute to practical political sol[u]tions?

Only to a limited extent, was Helm[ut] Schmidt's sober answer, but it can ma[ke] a great contribution to reconciliation.

"Is reconciliation a precondition or [a] result of practical political solutions?" [he] wondered. The Chancellor was not to [be] drawn on the philosophical or the poli[ti]cal: "It is difficult to distinguish betwee[n] the two after the event."

Hansjakob Stehle
(Die Zeit, 13 July 19[79])

Kreisky and Brandt see Arafat in Middle East peace bid

Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and SPD leader Willy Brandt believe that in six months at the latest peace in the Middle East will be over if everything goes on as before.

Cairo will not only seek rapprochement with the radical Arabs but also with Moscow, and in this case Jimmy Carter, already tottering, would fall.

This is a legitimate point of view but what is the best way to react? To invite Yasser Arafat to Vienna, support his demands for the PLO to be recognised by Israel, recommend him as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and advocate that peace efforts in the Middle East should be brought under the aegis of the UN?

Brandt and Kreisky both realise that Israel reacts sensitively to any upvaluing of the PLO, that the USA refuses to recognise the PLO and that a UN takeover of peace efforts would be rejected bitterly by the Israelis, who do not trust the UN.

Washington would not be happy to see Moscow returning to the negotiating table via the UN either.

It is worth thinking carefully what effect this support for Arafat will have on the home rule negotiations now going on between Egypt and Israel.

And finally, even though no-one dares mention oil, there is the risk of this kowtowing to Arafat being regarded as a gesture to placate the oil sheikhs.

If Kreisky and Brandt disregard all these points and behave in a manner that is more likely to hinder than help peace efforts, they must have had serious grounds for doing so.

They are reckoning on a salutary shock effect which, like Sadat's visit to Israel, will set the peace process in motion again, this time nearer to a solution of the Palestinian problem.

They are hoping that the substance of their talks with Arafat will survive the anger of the next days and provide a basis for cool reflections.

But how realistic is this calculation? It suggests to Israeli Premier Menachem Begin that Kreisky and Brandt doubt his will for peace and the seriousness of the autonomy negotiations.

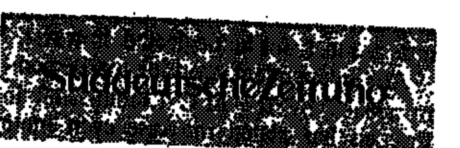
This will be a self-fulfilling prophecy as it is assumed that Jerusalem, apart from Quislings, has no representatives among the Palestinians of the West Bank of the Jordan who are taking part in the autonomy negotiations.

The more court is paid to Arafat internationally, the fewer Palestinians there will in fact be who are prepared to resist PLO pressure. And Mr Begin will be even less prepared to accept him as a partner in the Middle East peace process.

The meeting with Arafat was clearly mainly intended as a means of gaining a picture of the situation within the Socialist International.

But can the PLO's voice be heard here as long as its aim is the annihilation of Israel? Brandt and Kreisky have been persuaded that this is no longer Arafat's intention.

But they will have a tough time per-





suading Simon Peres, leader of the Israeli Labour Party. The initiative of the two European Socialist leaders has put him in an embarrassing situation.

The Israeli Labour Party does not approve of a Palestinian mini-state on the West Bank. It is thinking in terms of more autonomy for the Palestinians and of involving King Hussein of Jordan in the peace process.

The Vienna meeting has dismissed Hussein as irrelevant in the Middle East poker game.

Will the damage done be justified at least by the substance of the talks? There does not seem to be much reason for believing so.

Arafat has not renounced the use of violence against Israel, he has only renounced the use of terror against those not involved.

He could give no guarantee that he had the small extremist groups within the Palestinian movement under his control and his assurance that he did not want to annihilate Israel sounded extremely vague. He could not do so anyway.

To be taken seriously as a partner in the peace process he would have to offer more, namely willingness to recognise Israel's right to exist and to sati[sfy] its defence needs.

The fact that he cannot or will not [do] this, publicly at least, indicates t[he] weakness of his leadership of the PLO though he has been its leader for a su[r]prisingly long time.

Brandt and Kreisky's concern abo[ut] peace in the Middle East is certainly ju[s]tified. To hold talks with Arafat is any[]thing but reprehensible.

He would not be the first terrori[st] who who had suddenly become accep[t]able in polite company. But he wou[ld] have to abjure his past more strong[ly] than he has done to date.

If the two leaders of the Socialist In[]ternational wanted to influence the peace process, they could try to move Arafat in this direction rather than b[la]ming Begin or describing, as Brandt di[d] plans for a US intervention army in th[e] Middle East as hare-brained.

Dieter Schröder
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 July 1979)

The German Tribune
Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. — Distribution Manager: Georgine von Platen.
Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH. 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 85 1. Telex: 02 14733. Bonn bureau: 65 Adenauerallee, 53 Bonn, Tel.: 21 90 00. Telex: 08 86398.
Advertising rates list No. 13 —
Annual subscription DM 35.
Printed by Druck- und Verlagshaus Friedrich Pörtner, Bremen-Blumenthal. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.
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HOME AFFAIRS

Gift Shadow Chancellor may prove Trojan horse

The Social Democrats have accepted Franz Josef Strauss's candidacy for the Chancellorship as a long-expected gift. They are grateful, but by no means effusive.

The left wing, in particular, regard the right-wing gift from Bavaria with mixed feelings. They fear that the highlighting of this outspoken and controversial CSU leader could yet prove a Trojan horse.

Their worry is that discussion within the party and efforts to help marginal political groups could be sacrificed for the sake of unity in the run-up to the election.

In the process the SPD could sink from being a party with a programme to being a vote-raising club for the Chancellor.

This was a development which the left-wing Social Democrats emphatically wanted to prevent only recently. A meeting of the SPD party executive at the end of June called for more open and self-critical discussion within the party.

It also advocated guidelines which would bring ecologists and supporters of alternative life styles back into the SPD.

In brief, the motto was to give the sceptical representatives of the young generation a political home. Will the challenge from Strauss now become the anvil on which these hopes are shattered?

The leitmotivs which Helmut Schmidt and Herbert Wehner have proposed for the general election will hardly put left-wing Social Democrats' minds at rest.

The motto is not to present Strauss as a devil, "not, in self-defence, to rely on counter-propaganda in talking of the scandal-filled career of an aging Machiavellian" (Wehner).

These are words of wisdom which will be forgotten in the heat of the election campaign. No one wears kid gloves when they are competing with Franz Josef Strauss.

More thought-provokimg is the Chancellor's warning to his party colleagues to steer clear of the issue for a few months.

Quiet is the first duty of party comrades. Among moderate Social Democrats Helmut Schmidt can reckon with approval for this slogan.

Hermann Heinemann, for example, leader of the West Westphalian SPD region, which has the highest membership, says the result of Strauss's candidacy will be greater unity in his party in the September local goverment elections.

State assembly elections in May next year will have an additional disciplinary effect on the Ruhr Social Democrats, who are fairly quiet as it is.

The Young Socialists do not regard themselves as under such pressure. "To stop being critical of the party programme because of the threat from Strauss?" "Of course not," says YS leader Gerhard Schröder.

In a tone of left-wing conviction he names the controversial topics his working party wants put on the agenda of the SPD national conference in December in Berlin:

— economic planning to be changed with more democratic controls of the overall direction;

— rejection of atomic energy;

— final abolition of the Berufsverbote and

— expulsion of Post and Railways Minister



Kurt Gscheidle because both the Post Office and the railways apply the Radicals Decree.

So Strauss need not worry about his supply of electoral ammunition for the Young Socialist camp. However, his candidature has at least had the effect of a making the YS leader aware of Helmut Schmidt's importance:

"Schmidt is not the measure of all things but he guarantees a situation which for Social Democrats is capable of improvement."

The established left wing in the SPD regards the Chancellor in his duel with Strauss with similarly distant benevolence.

Will Helmut Schmidt, who in the party council's discussion about programmatic weaknesses was conspicuously silent, want to enter into debates of principle with his colleagues in view of the challenge from Strauss?

One of the spokesmen for the left, Bremen Finance Minister Henning Scherf, regards this as the most exciting question following Strauss's candidature.

Yet whatever the Chancellor may wish he cannot reckon with the peace of the grave in his party. Erhard Eppler, leader of the SPD in Baden-Württemberg, says:

"We will go into the election campaign completely united, but that does not mean we will put a ban on thinking for the next year and a half."

So thinking will be allowed: about an alternative energy programme, about more democratisation, about how to deal with political extremists.

For many left-wing Social Democrats the Protestant Church Conference gave an important impulse to continue discussing political programmes despite party-political polarisation.

Confusion and scepticism among young people about the political system, as evident at this conference, are always given as the reasons why the SPD could concern itself more with critical young people and their problem of coming to terms with the future.

Left-wing SPD politicians do not accept the criticism that the much-quoted young people at the Church conference were especially strident representatives of their generation. Eppler said that on the contrary they "represented millions."

"We must present alternative positions, however much Strauss thumps the table." This political credo of Henning Scherf's goes not only for the way to deal with the young.

Scherf and other Social Democrats like him are more worried about the fact that a large section of the population will be left out of the political debate. They see the election campaign concentrating ont the confrontation between good man of action Schmidt and naughty boy Franz Josef Strauss. This is how the popular glossy magazines present things.

Left-wing Social Democrats will certainly not be satisfried with a Stop Strauss campaign alone, even if this presents their political opponents with arguments against them.

They do not want to be turned from their course of showing differences in the party and presenting alternatives. The only question is whether the majority of their comrades will give them the chance to do so.

And whether the impending Strauss storm will not send them running under the shelter of a government party whose function is largely one of acclamation.

The thunder from the right has a disciplinary effect. Even on the left they are not only concentrating on the issues to be debated with the CDU/CSU but are also looking at anti-Strauss material from previous campaigns to see if it can be used again.

The YS are thinking about a reissue of the Black Book on Franz Josef Strauss published three years ago.

It remains to be seen whether Erhard Eppler's view that "Strauss mobilises enough by his person; we can afford to concentrate on the arguments" will prove true.

Dieter Buhl
(Die Zeit, 13 July 1979)

North-South

Continued from page 1

that development aid was in their own interest.

Only by supporting and training the underdeveloped countries could jobs of the future be ensured in the industrialised world.

Out of every DM100 Bonn provided in development aid, Herr Brandt said, about DM70 already flowed straight back in the form of export orders. People must be made aware of the interests shared by the rich and the poor countries.

Brandt's briefing made it clear that the commission had dealt at length and in detail with the aid needed to help bridge the North-South gap.

But less attention had evidently been paid to important details such as how aid is to be distributed and by whom and what controls can be enforced to ensure that funds are invested effectively in the developing countries.

Views clearly still vary widely between donors on the one hand and recipients on the other.

The SPD leader said he felt a summit meeting of three dozen heads of government from industrialised and developing countries might be held to draw up aid allocation guidelines.

As for corruption in the Third and Fourth World, Herr Brandt somewhat evasively noted that the foremost corruption scandal in recent years had been the Lockheed affair, in which only industrialised countries had been involved.

The Brandt Commission certainly felt it was essential, if there were to be more intensive collaboration between industrialised and developing countries, for political and cultural systems in the emerging countries to be accorded every respect.

Its chairman also felt the inclusion of the East bloc countries in the North-South debate was of the utmost importance. He said he had held talks with all East bloc leaders on the subject, meeting with understanding on the part of President Brezhnev in particular.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 July 1979)

Strauss-led Opposition girds loins

Jubilation within his party, the CSU, at Franz Josef Strauss's nomination as candidate for the Chancellorship has been more muted than one might expect.

Strauss and his friends are aware of the risks involved in this nomination. They know the election is far from won and that young voters and floating voters still have to be convinced. And that is going to take a lot of work.

Strauss, who realises this difficulty, lost no time in getting down to the problem and he went about it in a way that many of those who only know him from second and third hand did not expect.

There was no trace of the Bavarian tub-thumper who comes upon the political scene like a whirlwind.

Instead, Strauss is playing it very gently. He is cultivating the atmosphere within the Opposition and adopting the political style of a statesman.

Perhaps this is all calculation and "the wolf has swallowed chalk," as SPD general secretary Egon Bahr supposes. But what is not calculation in politics when it comes down to it?

Strauss has suffered more in past years than he would like to admit at being given the cold shoulder when the CDU was choosing a candidate for the Chancellorship.

Now he has reached the top and, having reached it, can take a more composed view of matters.

The psychological pressure is off, and now the man at the top must prove he has the capacity to integrate, otherwise he will have failed before the election campaign even opens.

The dispute in the CDU/CSU joint strategy committee about remarks by CDU general secretary Heiner Geissler is because Geissler is right when he points out that there are reservations about Strauss in the CDU and that Strauss realises this.

It is necessary to draw the political conclusions from this and Strauss certainly intended to do so, but to do so in public was unwise given the difficulty of keeping peace within the CDU/CSU.

Of course Strauss must now prove his appeal to voters throughout the country. He must break down prejudice aggainst him. And of course he cannot simply ignore the CDU's political programme.

But on the other hand he does not appreciate being called upon to do so, especially by a CDU general secretary of whom he has so low an opinion.

The CDU and the CSU will not be taking it easy during the summer recess. Strauss has made sure of this in his timetable, accepted by the CDU.

What is programmatically and organisationally necessary will be worked out by small working parties by September, including a lengthy discussion with Helmut Kohl.

Despite rumours Strauss wants to bring Kohl into his political strategy. Strauss is also looking for an ally in the North. He will probably be Schleswig-Holstein Prime Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg.

All in all, it cannot be ruled out that by the beginning of the election campaign the CDU/CSU will for the first time have streamlined itself so that it does not present its opponents with too many easy targets.

Hans Jörg Sottorf
(Handelsblatt, 12 July 1979)

■ MEDIA

Television prepares for its debut as a computer terminal

The teletext system will be introduced experimentally from 2 January 1980. Three thousand television owners and telephone subscribers in Berlin and Düsseldorf will have a foretaste of the communications system of the future.

The system, based on a British model, was developed further by the Bundespost and first unveiled at the 1977 Berlin radio show. The purpose of the Berlin and Düsseldorf experiments, which will last one year, is to find out if the system appeals to a wider public.

Teletext is a combination of telephone and television, an ideal combination, as 95 per cent of households have a television set and by 1985 ninety per cent will have a telephone too.

Subscribers first dial Teletext Centre. The title page of the teletext package is then transmitted via telephone on to their television screen. It is a light green telephone with the caption teletext and the request to dial your own number and an agreed code word, both by the remote control dial of the television set.

The teletext centre then checks these data, finds out if the viewer is entitled to use the system and uses the data to calculate fees later.

Once the viewer has dialled his number and the code word, the contents of the teletext appear on his TV screen: information under headings numbered from 1 to 9, from news, leisure, sport, radio and television to consumer market and announcements.

Using this table of contents the viewer then has to go through a time-consuming process of searching before he gets the information he is looking for.

An example: let us assume the viewer has pressed programme number 1 and found out what the programme offers under this number.

He chooses the home magazine section, which is then subdivided on the screen into sport, entertainment out, holidays, travel and transport.

The viewer wants to go out for the evening and so he presses the appropriate number. Then follows another series of questions: In what town: Berlin, Düsseldorf, or where?

If he chooses Berlin, the next set of questions immediately appears: Do you want to go to the theatre, the cinema or a concert, do you want to visit the sights, enjoy the night life or go out for a meal?

Frustrated, the viewer now presses the gastronomy number, hoping he will now at last get the information he is looking for. But gently does it.

The Post Office has put another game of patience in the way before the viewer can find out about the delights of the palate or any other delights.

He now has to decide what kind of cuisine the restaurant should specialise in: Chinese, German, Italian and all the other possibilities.

The answer to this question is: German, but the screen has not finished its interrogation. What part of town should the restaurant be in?

Those who have not already given up by this stage and are preparend to answer the questions that may follow will then finally get the information about the various restaurants they could go to. It might include, if they are unlucky, the news that their first preference is closed today, in which case they have to start all over again.

This system is a severe trial to the impatient, but perhaps there is a remedy. The Post Office or the companies advertising via this system could produce a brochure with the numbers so deciphered that one does not need to go through the whole process starting with the table of contents but can start with Gastronomy in Berlin.

The viewer will be able to dial information from teletext central computers (at the moment there is one in Darmstadt and another in Berlin and eventually there are to be 150) on a whole range of subjects: the housing market, situations vacant, car sales, railway timetables, theatre programmes.

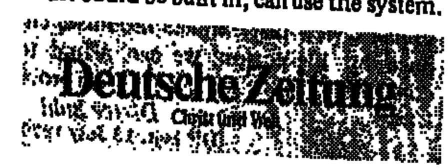
Retailers can inform viewers of their cheap offers via teletext and travel agents give information on places to go on holiday.

Also on the programme would be news from the stock exchange, the latest *Which* test results, recipes and diet tips, educational programmes and the weather, local announcements and information about forthcoming events.

Then there is the possibility of using the central computer as a play partner or calculator, feeding in personal information (for instance the amount in your bank account) which can then be retrieved.

The total amount of information is technically at least potentially unlimited except by the storage capacity of the computer, which in Berlin is 140,000 pages and in Darmstadt only 4,000.

However, technology sets limits from another angle. Only those who have a modern colour television set with a decoder built in, or a set in which a decoder could be built in, can use the system.



This decoder translates the information signals coming in over telephone cables into legible television images and words. A television set with a decoder costs an extra DM1,500.

Secondly, the user must have a box-like extra device, a so-called modeme, which connects the TV set to the telephone network.

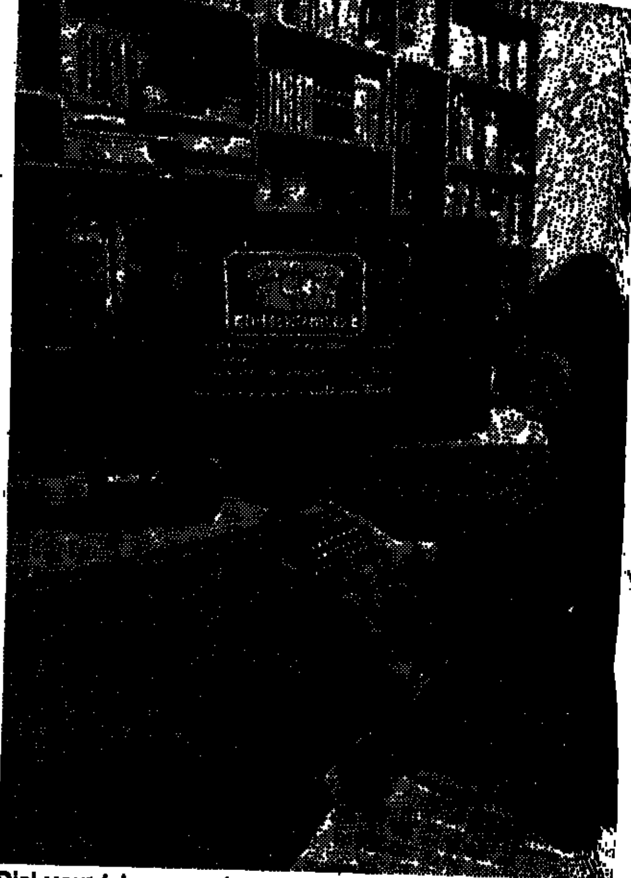
These modemes, about the size of a dictionary, will be available at the beginning of the trial runs for under DM1,000.

It is hoped that in two years, these devices will cost only DM150 to DM200 or they could be rented by users for as little as DM5 per month.

Those taking part in the experiments will not have to pay these costs. The 2,000 private subscribers, a representative cross section of households in this country, and the 1,000 commercial test partners in Düsseldorf and Berlin will be supplied free of charge. Information will also be free.

Later, when the experiments are completed, the results have been scientifically evaluated and the system has possibly been introduced nationwide a fee will be charged for calling a teletext which will be the same as the fee for a telephone call: 23 pfennigs per time unit, which by then will be eight minutes.

As always with new media containing texts and having to do with television, the question arises whether this is a television or a newspaper system, a public or a private, commercial system. In the Bill for the limited-period... teletext experiment presented by North Rhine-Westphalian Prime Minister Johannes Rau recently we read that this service cannot a priori be regarded as a television service but as an information-retrieval system which has not yet been assigned to one medium or the other.



Dial your 'phone number and code word, the teletext instructi on the TV screen say. (Photo: Kraufm

The Post Office is clearer here. It says it does not regard teletext as television. As a result, the Press would also be an equal partner in the introduction of the system.

The newspaper publishers, who regard their existence as threatened by the new media in particular, intend to take up this offer, mainly by cooperation in the teletext scheme to avoid being forced out of the advertising business.

Nonetheless, newspaper publishers regard the teletext system as a cul-de-sac even now. Because at the same time the teletext system is being tested, the ARD (First German TV Channel) stations and the ZDF (Second German TV Channel) will jointly start testing another system publishers regard as more promising but are barred from taking part in.

This is the videotext system, also presented at the 1977 Berlin exhibition, though then newspapers participated in it. In the videotext system, as with teletext, information is presented on pages which appear on the screen but this time they do not reach the screen via telephone cables like all TV broadcasts but through the air.

The empty lines created while the electron ray goes from the bottom to the top of the screen are fed with signals, which can then be transformed into texts by means of an additional device.

As this has only limited capacity only a hundred pages of information per TV channel can be accommodated, an extremely small amount compared with the almost unlimited page potential of the teletext system.

This drawback is compensated by the advantage that there are no fees for the retrieval of information in this system, videotext being included in the ordinary radio and TV licence system.

Newspaper publishers ask who is going to pay twenty or thirty marks a month for information via TV (teletext) when they can get the information for nothing by another system (videotext)?

Probably nobody. This is why newspaper publishers have more faith in the future of the videotext than the teletext system.

The newspaper publishers are unhappy at being excluded from this system, which could develop into an alternative to the newspaper.

This is why the newspaper publishe slogan is "fight for the videotext" or "Bildschirmtext" (television newspap as they call it, a term which is less ab ract but leads to confusion with telete

Talks between representatives of te levision channels, publishers and st governments have not yet led to ag ment on newspaper participation in videotext system, neither as suppliers news for the television stations nor a independent producers of news pro grammes.

The publishers also want to be able t operate independently in a third fie the cable TV pilot projects being pre pared by the Post Office on the instru tions of the Länder in four heavily bui up areas: Berlin, Dortmund, Munich a Mannheim-Ludwigshafen.

Initially, several TV channels a will broadcast to households via this sy tem but later the twelve channels w also be used to broadcast local pr grammes.

Up to now, newspaper publishers ha only been given the opportunity of pa ticipating in the Mannheim-Ludwigsh fen project, which is also the only one t will allow advertising.

To take advantage of this opportunit newspaper publishers' associations have formed a New Media Society. Members of this society undertake jointly to make available the sums (billions of deut schemarks) meeded to produce local te levision programmes independently t three years.

Solidarity among newspaper publish ers is great, because they realise what threat these new media could be t them.

This common course by the newspa per publishers is also intended to pre vent the often metioned duplication o monopoly. In no town will the locall dominant newspaper publisher be allow ed to produce the local TV programme alone.

The Post Office, apart from the above-mentioned pilot projects, is also planning to create a broad-band cable TV network in eleven other towns — including Bonn, Frankfurt, Offenbach, Koblenz, Kiel, Hamburg, Nuremberg and Munich.

This anticipation of the media future before the pilot projects have got under

Continued on page 5

■ PEOPLE

Commissioner vogue gets out of hand

The last few days have been unusually fruitful for the development of new political institutions. Marlies Kutsch, the government's Women's Commissioner, has taken office. And already there is another such institution on the "horizon of expectations" which politicians always observe so closely so as not to miss any useful ideas: the idea of a Children's Commissioner, proposed by Kurt Nitsch, President of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

The children's watchdog would ensure that political decisions took the requirements of children into account, just as Marlies Kutsch, a resolute and likeable trade unionist, and her fellow-workers in the Länder will examine all draft bills and their relation to women.

It seems that this country is well on the way to becoming a country of commissioners. The Defence Commissioner is already always noted with the due seriousness and the appropriate attendance in the Bundestag, as Herbert Wehner sullenly remarked not long ago.

The Commissioner for Protection against the Abuse of Computerised Data has been in office for a year and a half and we could now no longer do without him. He knows of the immense potential for abuse in modern computerised information systems. However, the commissioner suffers somewhat from the Interior Minister's ambition to be the best protector against data abuse himself — which is far from being the rule in his Ministry. The Minister will take care of the explosive cases himself — not surprising, seeing as he has better access to the files.

Students of the political scene remember that there was once an Environment Commissioner, television personality Professor Grzimek, who resigned after three years in office. He did what one expects from a commissioner, sounded the alarm at the top of his voice. But people did not want to hear him quite so loud. Others, he was told, were responsible for the Apocalypse — and to think that Helmut Schmidt was not even Chancellor at the time!

Heinz Kühn, Commissioner for Foreign Workers and former SPD Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, is still in office. There were plenty of protests when he was appointed but he himself now gives the impression that he is not very happy. He does not have enough assistants or enough power — a typical complaint of commissioners.

Finally there is a Citizens' Commissioner in the Rhineland Palatinate, appointed under the aegis of Helmut Kohl when he was still a giant in the CDU ranks and did not need to consider the CSU and its support troops.

The list does not claim to be complete and certainly there will be more commissioners. The tendency to clarify and increase public awareness of difficult problems by this means is strong but so, too, is the inclination to regard these problems as dealt with once a commissioner has been appointed. It is easy to achieve unanimity — just appoint a new commissioner!

These who wish may reflect sadly on the weakness of the political system in this connection. None of the commissioners has a task which is not within the competence of parliament or the ministries. But obviously no one believes that those directly competent are capable of dealing with the problems — and some of them themselves probably do not believe this either.

Only the civil servants are free of such doubts. They regard the commissioners as the products of mistrust and as an extreme nuisance, which is much worse.

And then the budget committee is only to glad to make commissioners realise that theirs is an unprofitable task.

To avoid misunderstanding there are among the commissioners extremely competent people, committed, knowledgeable and independent in their judgements. What is worrying is the proliferation of such appointments, an inflation of such appointments, an inflation which devalues.

If a commissioner is to be appointed for every weak spot in this society then there is no end of possible appointments in sight. It is not far then to a commissioner for alcoholics or cyclists, for the beauty of house facades and the preservation of the maybug.

Then we will have the crowning point of the whole operation — a neccessity in the eyes of those who know how hard a time commissioners have: a commissioner for commissioners. Then at least we will be able to say that the system is perfect.

Rolf Zundel
(Die Zeit, 6 July 1979)

Millionaire philanthropist turns eighty-five

Anyone meeting Alfred Toepfer without knowing of his remarkable and multifarious achievements in life could take him for a small farmer or a forester, or at any rate a man who is often outdoors and has close connections with nature. This would not be completely wrong. Yet he certainly would not think that this was an industrialist of the first water, whose group of companies has an annual turnover of ten billion deutschemarks. He would also find it difficult to believe that this man is well acquainted with some of the leading minds of our age. If one were to describe his character in one word one would unhesitatingly choose the word simplicity.

This simple man, who dislikes all forms of grandiloquence, began at the age of 25 to build a trade empire whose importance worldwide is now undisputed. Yet his philosophy is not that of the late capitalist but rather that of a late romantic whose intellectual inspiration is to be sought in the German youth movement.

At the age of 37, Toepfer founded the F.V.S. Foundation. It amuses him that people still puzzle about whether these initials stand for Friedrich von Schiller or Freiherr von Stein — a question to which not even the Brockhaus Encyclopedia can give a definitive answer. Then walking, the protection of nature and the cultivation of monuments were among its main aims — and still are.

Now his European Culture Prizes are best known to the general public — the Shakespeare prize, the Montaigne prize and now the Alexander-Petrovitsch-Karpinski prize for the Russian cultural sphere.

Then there is the Goethe Prize for International Attitudes and Humanistic Efforts and finally the Europa Prize, worth as much as the Nobel Prize, which is for statesmanship. This year it was awarded to Helmut Schmidt and French Prime Minister Raymond Barre jointly.

The F.V.S Foundation regularly awards about 20 prizes, for which about DM5m per annum are available.

Alfred Toepfer does not limit his activities to giving impulses and money. He himself takes an active part in the intellectual interchange which results from these additives.

Thus, he disproves by thought and deed the view that there are no longer any patrons today, that patronage now comes from public funds only.

This was what they said in ancient Rome when Gaius Maecenas died. And they were wrong then.

Alfred Toepfer was 85 on 13 July. He was an untimely contemporary even in his younger days because he took seriously then what the youth movement preached and what has since been anchored in the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany (though without always being practised): the motto that property obliges.

Sepp Schelz
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 15 July 1979)



Hans Neusel
(Photo: Sven Simon)

Karl Carstens' right-hand man

Hans Neusel, President Karl Carstens' new secretary of state, has never sought the limelight. When Carstens was taking his oath of office, Neusel sat among the diplomats and at the reception at Schloss Brühl he kept reserved and did not mix with Bonn political society.

Neusel has attracted attention by virtues which are typical of a civil servant: he is correct, reliable, and discreet. He has been working at Karl Carstens' side for six years. The 51-year-old lawyer and economist began his Bonn career twenty years ago in the Ministry of Economic Affairs. During Erhard's chancellorship he was called to the Palais Schaumburg. The next Chancellor, Kurt Georg Kiesinger, made him director of his office in 1966. This was when he was first spotted by Karl Carstens, then secretary of state to the Chancellor's Office.

When in 1973 Carstens surprisingly took over as leader of the CDU/CSU Opposition in parliament, he remembered Neusel's work and made him one of his closest colleagues.

This promotion to the highest office for a civil servant means that he has yet again missed the chance to take a longer holiday. He is a mountaineering and angling enthusiast, but he will have to forget them for this year at least.

He is proud of his 19-year-old daughter Susanne, who has just passed her Abitur and intends to study art. "She probably has this gift from her mother," says Neusel. His wife Karin is a well-known painter in Bonn.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 4 July 1979)

Continued from page 4

way has been criticised, and not only by newspaper publishers.

Other Ministries, the Ministry of Research for example, do not want to take decisions on new technologies in the future until there has been widespread public discussion.

In other words, they are prepared to risk projects being rejected and failing (Research Minister Volker Hauff cites the nuclear freighter Otto Hahn in his research report). Post Minister Kurt Gscheidle, on the other hand, does not seem to care for such discussion.

Apart from testing new network structures and communication technologies, Herr Gscheidle is mainly interested in getting a grip again on the cable market in this country, which has slipped from the Post Office's grasp.

In two-and-a-half million households television sets are connected via cable to private communal aerials.

He argued in Hamburg recently that the economically most sensible course is for all communication services (telephone, telex and television and the new forms of data and text transmission) to be part of one network (run by the Post Office of course) and not just a combination of private networks.

The newspaper publishers, on the other hand, fear that new cable network plans could lead to a system in the future that would look like this:

Supra-regional television programmes would be provided by satellites in geostationary positions above the equator; present TV channels would broadcast only regional programmes and the cable TV network would be used primarily for local programmes.

As soon as this vision of a future in which we would be saturated with information has become a reality, the bell will probably have tolled for the newspaper as we know them, and it is said such plans already exist.

Given these fears, it is understandable that private publishers are fighting to participate in new media which are still declared part of the public television system.

But there is another reason why newspapers should not be barred from the new media: as the energy crisis is obviously becoming a permanent fact of life, the transport of goods — including newspapers — may well one day be reduced on energy saving grounds. This would leave the field to "ethereal" forms of broadcasting and cable TV.

There is no reason why the transmission of these newspapers over the air should be left in the hands of public corporations, to the detriment of private newspaper publishers.

Michael Globig
(Deutsche Zeitung, 6 July 1979)

■ STOCKS & SHARES

Blue chips backslide in stock market tumble

Hannoversche Allgemeine

West German shares have been losing value since October 1978. With small interruptions they have lost, according to the Commerzbank Index, on average 16 per cent of their value since then. This means that the gains of 1977 and 1978 have now been lost. Not even the Corporation Tax reform which came into force on 1 January 1977 could prevent this downward trend.

This loss of value took many shareholders by surprise because it occurred in a period of economic upswing in which companies were making bigger profits and in some cases even paying higher dividends.

However, there is no inexplicable contradiction between a lively economy and increasing company profits on the one hand and on the other a drop in the value of shares and fixed-interest stocks.

Big investors, including unit trusts already have their eyes on economic developments in 1980, when they reckon with a drop in the rate of growth and an increasing loss of the value of money — i.e. classic stagflation.

Students of the stock markets noticed a change in the big investors' investment habits as early as spring 1978. They began converting their share gains into cash. This was not immediately reflected in market values, indeed the increase continued with some interruptions until October 1978 because there were enough buyers who, trusting in an improvement of the economic situation, rediscovered their love of shares — supported by the banks who were constantly talking about the rosy future for shares.

The bears did not become aware of this situation until spring 1978. Higher interest rates were a warning signal to be taken seriously. In March 1978 interest rates had been at their lowest for twenty years. When the Bundesbank made its first restrictive moves in June 1978 the increase in interest rates was already fully under way.

This again showed that rising interest rates and rising share values are mutually exclusive in the long run.

Of course those who bought shares last year are angry with the banks. Banks and savings banks do however have the excuse for their market optimism, which from today's point of view seems unfounded, that the consequences of the revolution in Iran, which was just beginning at the time, could not have been foreseen.

When share values dropped in November 1978, the unanimous view was that the steel industry strike was to blame. In fact the strike only accelerated, but did not cause, the development.

In the past weeks, share market pessimism gloom has increased in view of the constant increases in oil prices. Fear of a world recession has grown.

The Federal Republic of Germany, it was argued, would first notice this recession in the export sector, because a large number of her trade partners would reduce imports in order to buy oil. This would create employment problems here, especially in the car industry. This at a time when consumption has to be reduced because of the increase in the price of petrol and heating oil.

Stock market experts feel that the pace of inflation will cause the unions to ask for more pay and thus lead to a negative situation for shareholders in 1980.

This is based on the assumption that the Bundesbank will not be fully successful in its efforts to ensure currency stability — firstly because the European Monetary System makes changes in exchange rate more difficult and secondly because of international interest rate developments.

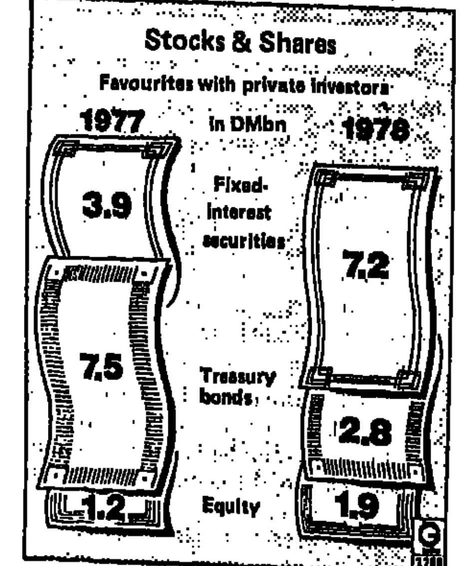
Any further increase of the interest rate attracts foreign money to German banks and weakens the already reeling dollar. Bank circles are already reckoning with a minimum reserve requirement of 100 per cent for foreign accounts and a ban on the purchase of German bonds by foreigners.

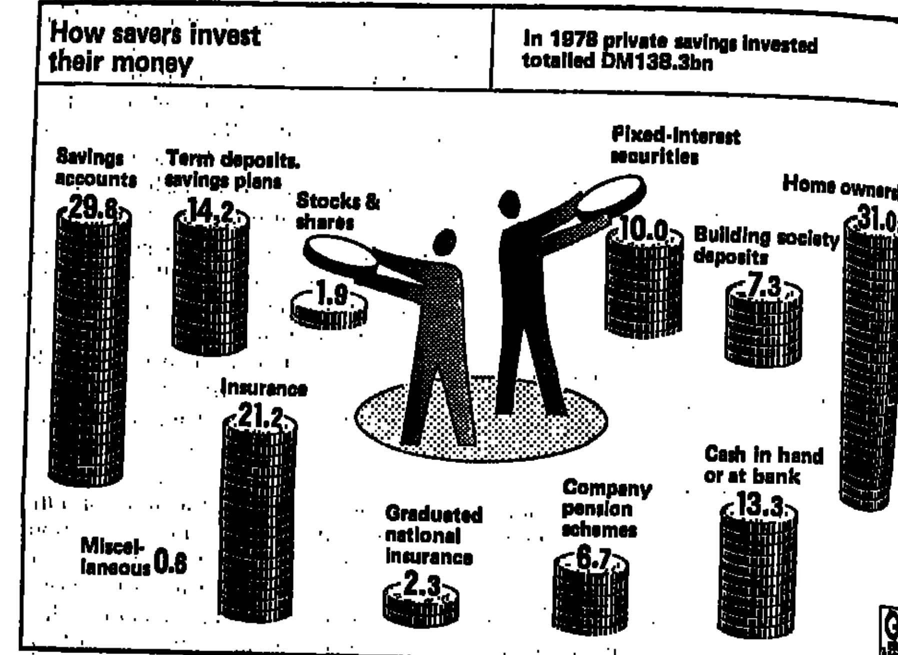
Given the bitter experiences some credit institutes had with illegal suitcase deals this ban would probably be effective.

Yet foreign money in the eyes of German stock marketeers is one of the few sheet anchors in sight. If foreigners, especially the rich oil producing countries of the Near East, find that the mark is an interesting currency which might even be revalued, then an inflow of funds from this direction would not only reduce tendencies for the interest rate to rise but also help standard German shares to rise in value. It is mainly for this reason that the meeting of the Central Bank Council on 12 July, the last before the summer break, was awaited with concern.

If the Bundesbank makes any moves towards stopping the inflow of foreign goods, then one of the stock market's last hopes can be written off.

While waiting for this decisive meeting, many big investors are persevering in the "wait and see" philosophy of the past months. They consider it possible that an increase of half a per cent in the bank rate which is under discussion at the moment would bring returns to around 8.3 per cent (for ten year maturities), even though the good sales of the last Government and German Railways





loan speaks against a further improvement in returns.

The majority of banks is now advising its customers not to wait with the money in their accounts (which is obviously plentiful). They are assuming here that the chances of an increase in interest rates this year are limited and that in 1980 — general election year — a lot will have to be done to ensure employment.

This would mean there would be no place in the economic scene for very high rates of interest. Of course all this is speculation on the distant future but how else are people to invest their money if not by trying to assess the future?

According to Bundesbank statistics only 18 per cent of the bonds offered for sale were taken up by "private persons." The lion's share was taken up by the banks, who this year are largely out of the running as purchasers.

The small proportion of private individuals buying bonds underlines that the ordinary German saver shuns the risk of fluctuations in value connected with stocks, which in the past have rarely brought him pleasure and often irritation.

The majority of bank and savings bank customers, partly guided by these institutions, prefers to buy bank and savings bank bills, not to mention government treasury bonds.

As the annuities market is thus not affected by the general public, the situation here has become more professional Hence the greater and faster fluctuation of values.

On the share market the lack of private investors — some of them gently persuaded to invest in the banks' own investment funds — has less of an effect because interest here is not, as in the case of annuities, concentrated on maximum returns and avoiding risks.

Concepts such as the spreading of risks, dividend speculation and long-term return expectations lead to a multiplicity of opinions in which the clever investor can make killings even when the market is calf-like.

Not surprisingly, oil shares have been front-runners in recent weeks. The German stock market has little to offer here, apart from Veba and Preussag. Veba shares have increased 20 per cent since the beginning of the year — at a time in which the Commerzbank Index dropped 11 per cent. The reason for the upward movement of Veba shares is the expectation of an increase in dividends.

Preussag shares went up about 12 per cent in the first half of 1979. Here too the prospect of better returns, including that of a dividend increase, plays a part.

Despite new production and sales records the German car industry has lost its position as favourite on the stock markets — also a result of the oil crisis. Although there are as yet no signs of a sales crisis, cautious stock marketeers are reckoning with a drop in car sales from 1980.

Pessimists reckon that this will lead to lower profits even next year. Bears were being ridiculed only in April because of this negative prediction.

Engineering industry shares may also be affected. These shares reached great heights last autumn, when the industrialists and bankers of the Western world converged on China and came home with promises of huge commissions, of which, as we now know, only very few have a prospect of being carried out.

For some months, even building industry shares have been showing signs of weakness. This is not only because of the bankruptcy of Beton and Monierbau, although this shows how thin the dividing line between profitability and ruin is in the international construction business. There is concern about the home construction industry. Next year the state aid programmes run out and this could lead to lay-offs. The interest rate situation also impedes private construction.

It is noteworthy that despite worldwide economic worries in past weeks investment interest in the shares of power station builders has increased. This benefited Siemens shares, which were also helped by orders from abroad.

The word among stock market insiders is that there will be capacity shortages in electricity production by next winter at the latest when people switch to electricity because of the cost of heating with oil. Even now orders for night storage heaters are pouring in. This will also be reflected in the shares of these companies — though not in those of AEG, which has finally pulled out of power station construction.

In recent weeks the value of AEG shares has stabilised at around DM50. They seem to be holding their own at this level, though it is certain that the process of restoration will have to be rounded off with a capital cut.

In his reconstruction efforts, AEG boss Cipa is insisting on speed. He does not want these measures coming in the middle of a period of recession — that would make everything even more difficult.

Even now, Cipa is having difficulty finding partners for his suffering subsidies. There is little hope of a radical improvement in value for these long-suffering shares!

The situation for the other "lame

Continued on page 7

■ ECONOMY

Bundesbank's Emminger calls for curbs now

The situation is explosive: our economy is functioning better than for many years yet our political spokesmen on economics are now calling for a change of course. The economy can now get by without massive injections of state aid and an impressive growth rate of four per cent is certain this year. This is why the Bonn Cabinet has passed an austerity budget for 1980.

The Frankfurt Bundesbank will probably tighten restrictions on money and loans this week because the spectre of inflation is looming up and there will probably be five per cent inflation by the autumn.

If the financial and monetary strategists really get their way, there could be another lull in the economy; and if this gets very bad we could face a second recession.

The situation now is similar to that in 1973, the year of the oil shock, though then everything was one size bigger. We were going through a super boom. Economic growth stood at five per cent, there were complaints of lack of labour and overstrained capacities. Average inflation that year was seven per cent and after the quadrupling of the dollar price for a barrel of oil we had to face a ten per cent increase in consumer prices.

At the time, the stability policy was not introduced until much later, but when it came it was so hard and applied so consistently that at the end there was a stabilisation crisis.

This is the reason why the Bundesbank in particular and its outspoken President Otmar Emminger are already sounding the alarm now. They do not want to see a repetition of the situation.

The question is, of course, whether the right conclusions really have been drawn. This time much weaker application of the brakes than in 1974 will probably be enough to make the economy skid.

Agreed, our economy is running well, but even before the latest oil price rise the five leading economic institutes had forecast reduced economic activity for 1980/81.

We do not have a broad-based boom at the moment at all; iron and steel, the shipping industry, the radio and gramophone industry are not taking part in the present upswing.

There is only real overheating at the moment in one sector — the building industry, where price increases are almost ten per cent. Here, public funds injected into the industry will have been used up within a year at the latest.

Finally, for the last 18 months there has been fierce demand for loans, which in turn pushes up prices. This demand came primarily from the state, the building industry and consumers. From now on the state will be more chary of borrowing and in private industry the high price of money — whipped up to 8.5 per cent with Bundesbank aid — is beginning to have its first deterrent effects.

The recent oil price increase is a decisive new factor. The oil producing countries will be taking an extra DM 15 billion out of this country as a result of this move. These are costs that cannot be compensated for either by printing more money or by a rigorous stability policy; they reduce our national income and cannot be used by companies to pass on prices or by unions to force up wage demands.

Then it is unlikely that the oil producing countries' increased spending power will return to the industrial nations in the shape of increased demand, as after the last oil crisis.

Finally, most of our trading partners have worse balances of payments that we do; if they now have to spend more money on oil, they will have less to buy goods in this country. This puts a few more dampers on the economy.

After the many years of deficit spending to the tune of billions of deutschemarks the government's wish to keep its new debt creation down to DM 20 billion by 1983 is understandable; expenditure on repayments and interest amounts to 35 billion deutschemarks today as it is, which means that a seventh of total expenditure is lost for practical purposes.

The Bundesbank is right when it argues that an even harder deutschemark will mean that imported raw materials and especially expensive crude oil from abroad will be cheaper.

The state's financial calculations will only be correct if the amount of money revenue is high. A stable currency is only meaningful if it can buy more goods here and abroad.

The result is that the Bundesbank and the Cabinet face an important task. What we need is not excessive saving and hectic swimming against the tide but a cautious medium-term economic policy as before. We are now at a decisive turning point.

Fritz Kral

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 9 July 1979)

1980 Bonn budget estimates
Total: DM215.3bn
Defence 37.7
Social security 48.8
Transport 26.3
Development aid 5.1
Housing 4.4
Education & science 4.2
Research
Agriculture
6.2
6.5
Economic affairs 5.4
Home affairs 3.6
Youth & family affairs 18.6
Debt fund 16.2
Miscellaneous 23.6
Civil service pensions 8.7

Matthöfer plans spending cuts in election year 1980

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

The Bonn government now proposes to do something it originally intended to start in 1977 but then had to abandon because of the economic lull: to reduce deficit spending, lessen the taking up of loans and thus not only to ease the burden on the money markets but avoid a situation where it finds itself spending more on repayments and interest on loans than on necessary investment.

Despite this, Bonn Minister of Finance Hans Matthöfer will be taking up net loans totalling DM28bn in his proposed 1980 budget — an amount which is a good DM6bn below investment expenditure.

If medium-term financial planning proves to be correct — which has rarely happened — the 1983 Finance Minister will have a total debt of not much more than DM20bn on his hands.

To achieve a lower rate of indebtedness the Finance Minister would have to limit considerably the increase of expenditure agreed by the Cabinet. State expenditure is to increase by five per cent a year for the next four years, a rate which is clearly under the assumed and expected nominal rate of growth.

A reduction of the increase in expenditure must have been all the easier for the Finance Minister in view of the expectation that the economy no longer needs additional injections of state aid. The state cannot withdraw completely from its role as a stimulator of investment but industry must now make its own contribution to the continuation of growth.

Nonetheless there are barely conceivable increases from year to in government spending. Only seven years ago the DM100 billion mark was reached and this year the DM200 billion mark will be reached. The reason for this is that 80 per cent of government spending is on previously made commitments.

This does not leave the government or the Land Ministers of Finance with much room for manoeuvre, and the same goes for the treasurers of local councils. Special wishes, for increased development aid or specific economy-boosting programmes, must be accommodated within this narrow scope if the state is not to increase its deficit spending again.

This will also apply to the consequences of the planned energy-saving policy. If government and parliament see their way to state aid to improve insulation of older buildings, then the necessary finance for this measure will have to be found elsewhere. There is some money put aside for such eventualities in every budget. The budget committee of the Bundestag has always been able to prove this when, as in the recent past, supplementary budgets have been financed from the current budget.

The priorities which the Finance Minister must make leave him no choice on this point. For all parliamentarians the following motto must apply: those who want to spend more, will have to propose savings in other sectors from which this extra spending is to be financed.

It is highly probable that the 1980 budget will be modified by the time it gets through the Bundestag budget committee.

The Bonn Ministries have put in for 2,000 new posts to be created. Last year, the budget committee reduced the number of such posts by 50 per cent. Similar cuts can only be made this year if a wide measure of agreement can be achieved in the budget committee, which has always been praised for the good working climate beyond party and parliamentary party limits.

Given that next year is general election year, this good atmosphere could change and this certainly would not be to the benefit of a consistent budgetary policy. More importantly parliament would then lose one of its most important duties, that of keeping a check on the Bonn government.

Peter J. Velte

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 6 July 1979)

Continued from page 6

ducks" on the German stock markets does not look much better.

Continental shares have fallen back to the level of AEG. There is no talk of dividends in stock market circles and the takeover of the European Uniroyal factories is regarded more negatively than positively.

This explains the difference in share value between Conti and Phoenix rubber shares, which are also paying no dividend and holding their own at the far from impressive level of DM70.

Whether Phoenix pays a dividend for 1979 is less a question of the balance sheets than of a company decision. The high carryover would first of all have to be cancelled by the dissolution of provisions. This will only be done if it can be guaranteed that there will be payouts in the long run.

There has been a slight improvement for the shares of major chemical companies, even though this is not expressed in higher values but rather in a slowdown in the rate at which they lose value.

The chemical companies ought, from today's point of view, to be able to up their last dividend of DM6, even though there are dark clouds on the horizon for 1980. If dividends were increased to DM7 cash (plus a tax credit item of DM3.37 per share) this would mean, at present values, a return of 8.7 per cent, though the question is how long a higher payout can be kept up.

Investors see no danger to steady dividends in the supply industry, which suffered psychologically during the recent atomic energy debate and also from the increased interest rates on the money markets, because their values tend to be oriented to money market returns.

If the increase in interest stops at the end of the year and even goes down in 1980, there would be a certain amount of security for the supply industry shares, especially as their returns are around eight per cent even now.

Kurt Wendt

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 July 1979)

MOTORING

Pills are worse traffic risk than alcohol, Hamburg experts warn

Medicine is probably as frequent a cause of road accidents as alcohol, doctors concluded at the third conference on traffic medicine held in Hamburg recently by ADAC, the Munich-based motoring organisation.

In official statistics as compiled by the motor insurers, the police and the Federal Statistics Office, Wiesbaden, accidents attributable to the influence of drugs still account for a mere fraction of a per cent.

One accident in four is attributed to the influence of alcohol, on the other hand. But "we may even assume that the number of traffic accidents due solely to the influence of tablets is larger than that of drunken driving cases."

Or so Professor Arnold, head of forensic medicine at Hamburg University, says. He based this claim on surveys conducted jointly with the surgical wards of Hamburg University Hospital.

In 68 per cent of cases probed the urine of motorists or pedestrians who had been responsible for a road accident was found to contain traces of medicine, said Dr Lange, a Hamburg emergency ward doctor.

An alarmingly large number of road-users not only drink and drive but also take medicine at the same time. Forensic scientist Professor Möller said one blood sample in five contained traces of drugs.

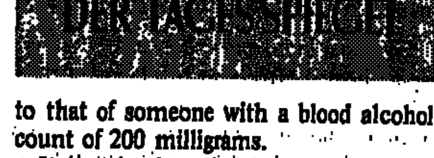
A survey Professor Arnold quoted indicates how irresponsibly motorists take to the wheel after taking medicine. Fifty per cent of those asked admitted to taking pills without having first consulted their doctor.

Half again drove on regardless. Yet nine out of ten are fully aware of the possible effect of drug intake in general and on road safety in particular.

Fourteen to twenty per cent ignore their doctor's advice or go against their own feeling that they are not at their best because of the medicine they have taken. They carry on driving nonetheless.

Professor Arnold had a straightforward explanation for the striking discrepancy between official statistics and medical findings among road-users involved in accidents.

Road-users under the influence of medication do not smell of drink, he said. Others do not suspect anything is wrong until their behaviour corresponds



to that of someone with a blood alcohol count of 200 milligrams.

It is only then that laymen, including the police, suspect the truth and arrange for toxicological tests. Sub-threshold shortcomings are usually not even noticed.

Yet the intake of medicine alone can be enough to cause absolute or relative inability to drive a motor vehicle.

Drugs taken for serious diseases are not the usual offenders. It is usually patent medicines taken for banal reasons and either without medical advice or without necessity, as the Hamburg congress was told by more than one delegate.

Sleeping pills are taken because the takers feel restless. Painkillers are taken to dull the effect of an alcohol or nicotine hangover.

Tranquillisers are taken to relieve the assumed stress of day-to-day living, then pep pills to counteract chronic tiredness.

Their ingredients may not all be psychopharmaca, but they certainly affect the psyche. They interfere in the central nervous system and impede responses that are vital for motorists.

Perception and speed of reaction are affected, which is why Munich psychiatrist Professor Hanns Hippius felt able to state categorically that:

"Every intake of psychically effective substances must be regarded as a potential traffic risk factor in every individual without exception."

But what is really dangerous, he added, was not carefully dosed, medically supervised, long-term drug treatment for endogenous psychoses or complaints like epilepsy.

The problem was that of sporadic and possibly undisciplined intake of a psychically effective drug (or maybe several) by people with a clean bill of health.

He referred to a British survey of 45,000 patients over a two-year period. Beyond any possibility of statistical coincidence patients who resorted to tranquillisers were more prone to involvement in road accidents.

Professor Hippius, who is head of psychiatry at Munich University Hospital, feels epileptics, schizophrenics and depressives might be allowed to keep or retake their driving licences as part of rehabilitation and resocialisation.

But this presupposes systematic, long-term therapy under medical supervision and proof that the complaint is no longer a problem.

The initial shortfall in performance due to drug intake disappeared in a few weeks. Afterwards, reaction speed tests had shown, performance gradually improved to a level more or less equal to beforehand.

In most cases the instructions that come with the medicine say whether or not it might affect driving ability. Doctors at the Hamburg congress merely complained that the patient was not told how long after intake he ought to steer clear of driving.

The situation is particularly problematic with regard to combinations of several drugs such as pharmaceutical manufacturers are fond of marketing.

Münster pharmacologist Professor Fritz Kemper said not even a doctor could work out how long the patient would be better advised not to take to the wheel because the influence of the drug might still be harmful.

Professor Kemper appealed to doctors to stop prescribing combinations of drugs to motorised patients.

People also seem to have the wrong idea about the effect of painkillers designed to give short-term anaesthesia and local anaesthetics administered by doctors and dentists.

Professor Erich Rügheimer, chief anaesthesiologist at Erlangen-Nuremberg University Hospital, energetically refuted the mistaken assumption that local anaesthetics had no effect on driving ability.

Their strain on circulation and effect on the central nervous system remained for hours after intake, he said. The same was true of short-term and ultra short-term narcotics, which were thus misnomers for both doctors and patients.

Tests of four such drugs, Professor Kemper said, had shown that patients would be well advised not to drive a motor vehicle for twelve hours after intake, and possibly twenty-four.

He called on doctors and dentists to insist that patients turn up for surgery treatment on foot and not by car when narcotics or local anaesthetics were to be administered.

Professor Hippius said general practitioners ought to remind patients much more often of the effect the drugs they prescribed might have on ability to cope with traffic.

It might often be advisable to insist that patients sign a form noting that they have been warned that a prescribed drug may impair their driving ability.

Professor Rügheimer strongly recommended doctors to do so in case they were later sued for damages. Professor Kemper felt putting pen to paper, whether as an insurance waiver or not, was more effective than a thousand well-meant words of warning.

Motorists who signed some such document could hardly be more vividly aware of the risk they ran and the danger they were to other road-users if they still insisted on driving.

Dieter Dietrich

(Der Tagesspiegel, 8 July 1979)

Driving test candidates are taught to take it easy

One driving test candidate in three suffers from palpitations, sweating and impairment of concentration during the test.

So the Bavarian region of TÜV, the organisation that conducts driving and vehicle roadworthiness tests, has started courses to make examinees relax.

Courses in anti-stress training are being held experimentally for a year in Munich before being provided in other Bavarian cities next year.

TÜV authorities in other parts of the country have also shown interest in the idea.

Lack of self-assurance is largely the reason why three out of ten driving test candidates fail at the first attempt.

They suffer from mental blocks, feel confused and their senses of perception are less efficient, so it is hardly surprising they fare worse during the test.

And once they make their first mistake candidates tend to panic well and truly.

In initial trials Munich psychologist Gerhard Anwander divided driving school students anxiously awaiting their test into two groups, one of which took the anti-stress course.

Nineteen per cent of students who had attended this course failed the driving test. A staggering 45 per cent of the other group went on the fail the test at the first attempt too.

The course costs DM118 and consists of three three-hour lessons held at weekly intervals. Anwander first shows students how physical relaxation training can relieve excitement and make then react less agitatedly to anxiety-causing stimuli.

This is followed by desensitisation training in which tricky situations such as the moment the test inspector gets into the back seat of the car or a botched parking manoeuvre are run through time and time again in the mind's eye.

The problem is not felt to have been dealt with until measuring devices indicate that the student no longer responds



under stress. On the day he or she will no longer be so flustered.

Most people who take the course have already failed the driving test once or twice. Their subsequent failure rate is 25 per cent, which is below average.

Nine out of ten students are women who, according to the psychologist, are readier to admit they are worried. The risk of failure increases with age, while readiness to take the course increases with educational qualifications.

Eight out of ten anti-stress course students have school-leaving certificates.

Günter Neufeld/ddp

(Die Welt, 3 July 1979)

FLASHBACK

TV documentary features fate of German expellees from the East



The political news programme Report may have broken a taboo with its recent programme on the fate of hundreds of thousands of Germans driven from their homes at the end of the Second World War.

Whether the longstanding taboo has been finally broken remains to be seen but at least it broke the silence about this problem, which has worried many concerned to understand recent German history and was torturing, not to say defamatory, for those involved in these events a generation ago.

There were hundreds of letters and thousands of telephone calls in response to the programme. This is impressive but – in view of the reaction to Holocaust – hardly surprising. The programme presenter made a specific reference to the American TV programme in Report.

However, no statistics can possibly express how the reports written at the time and the documentary pictures made people relive their experiences and suffering and helped them to talk about them at last.

Thirty years after the event this can no longer be a release from memories that constantly recur in nightmares. The descriptive value of such a programme is that the subjective report becomes credible to this generation and the next, who simply cannot imagine what happened at the time.

Asked why he chose to take up this subject now, reporter Wolfgang Moser referred again to Holocaust. Then, almost every other letter and phone call to the South West TV contained the question: what about the crimes committed against Germans during the collapse of the Third Reich and thereafter?

One has mixed feelings when hearing these figures: do they not reveal the attempt to cover up German crimes by referring to the crimes of others?

Report gave a clear answer to this: "Without these crimes, what followed, namely crimes against the Germans, would never have happened." And later: "To avoid misunderstanding we are not attempting to compare crimes or weigh them up against one another. Only I believe that whoever talks about crimes against Germans without describing what preceded them is distorting history. And the same applies to those who pass over these crimes in silence."

The Emnid market research institute, Bielefeld, was commissioned by South West German TV to find out what people thought of this problem. Question 11 was: "It is said that the Poles, Russians and Czechs committed crimes against Germans because they simply killed many of them. Is this assertion correct in your opinion? "

Those asked could have answered that the assertion was not correct or that they did not know exactly. 48 out of a hundred said the assertion was true, whereas only 7 per cent said it was not true. The frightening figure is that of the 44 per cent who said they "did not know exactly."

The breakdown of these answers according to age-groups gives a good indication of the state of knowledge: two out of three of those aged 60 and above answered yes. More than three out of five of the 14- to 29-year-olds said that they "did not know exactly."

Emnid then asked if Germans today were well enough informed about these crimes or if they wanted to know more. Almost three out of four wanted more information; the figures for the oldest and the youngest citizens of this country were even higher.

The need for more information is illustrated by the fact that 71 out of a hundred citizens did not know how many Germans were victims of these crimes. Among the youngest group the figure was 83 per cent.

The Bonn government commissioned the National Archive to look into these figures. Report author Moser says that there are only ten copies of this report bound in green files. These reports can, within the limits of the archive's regulations, be consulted but they cannot be lent.

The basic material consists of over 40,000 documents and letters, mostly reports from refugees who in the years up to about 1950 wrote down what they had undergone or dictated it to others.

Compared with the 16 million who had to leave their homeland, this figure seems small. Yet when one thinks of the effort of will, the struggle and the distance to the events required to describe such cruelty in sober terms, this is an impressive figure.

"One cannot write it down but one cannot forget it either." For hundreds of thousands this sentence may still be true, even if a taboo has been broken.

Many an owner of this work may have forgotten it until Report jogged his memory.

It is interesting to reflect on why this work was almost forgotten by the general public. The explanation that everyone, whether directly affected or not, had enough problems as it was, is not as primitive as it sounds.

More important is the fact that there was nothing sensational about this work. Nobody doubted the truth of the facts it contained. There were too many eyewitnesses and victims to confirm its truth.

We may note critically today that despite honest efforts to recall to the best of one's knowledge what happened a certain amount of exaggeration may have crept in. However at the time there was no political grouping who found the publication such a work inopportune. This may be the reason why it was ignored. The situation has now changed.

During the Grand Coalition under Kiesinger the National Archive was instructed to "summarise and evaluate the material at its disposal and from other sources about crimes and acts of inhumanity committed against Germans during the expulsion from East Europe."

Even then, Moser points out, the archive was told that this study would be only for internal use.

The National Archive worked with scientific meticulousness. Every case of maltreatment leading to death was followed up, checked and cross-checked with overlapping reports by other witnesses.

Professor Booms, president of the National Archive, says that the figure of 50,000 who were the victims of crimes is a cast-iron certainty. Booms puts all the weight of his archive behind the figure of a total of 600,000 dead as a result of crimes connected with expulsion. This figure is based on statistical material, the investigations of the Search Services and projections based on questionnaires.

The concept of crimes connected with expulsion is vague, as vague as an attempt at a definition to put a final figure on the number of victims.

If we compare the population in the areas from which Germans were expelled with the numbers left over after the war, there is a discrepancy of two million. If, as in Report, we take 19 October 1944 as the beginning of the tragedy, then we are departing from the concept of victims of expulsion.

Nemmersdorf in the eastern part of East Prussia has become a symbol. It was the first village on Reich territory to be taken by Russian soldiers, who were immediately beaten back by the Wehrmacht. What the Wehrmacht fou[nd] when they returned was worse than [any] propaganda could have dreamt of: pe[o]ple crucified alive, old men and wom[en] flayed, babies beaten to death, bo[dies] abused and dismembered, with noth[ing] human left about them.

Lev Kopelev, Soviet officer [and] German scholar — who a few m[onths] later was sent to a penal camp [for] 'sympathy with the enemy' –, lat[er at]tempted in his book Recorded Fo[r All] Time to explain how the Russian [sol]diers were brought to commit th[e] atrocities:

"Everything must be done to kee[p] the lust for fighting. He must [hate] the enemy like the plague, he must w[ant] to annihilate him completely and [he] must be told he is now in Germany [and] everything is his: clothes, women, ev[ery]thing ..."

The inhabitants of Nemmersdorf could not or did not want to e[...] were not in the strict sense of the [...] expellees. Yet their fate led to the m[ass] flight from these areas as the Russ[ians] pressed westwards.

What had with difficulty been ke[pt] under control by the Soviet leadershi[p as] the troops marched through Poland [and] the Baltic republics was now unchai[ned] and allowed to rage with unspeak[able] cruelty, in accordance with Ilya Eh[ren]burg's call to "kill, kill the Germans..

Incredible, inconceivable? Beginn[ing] from this period we have the ten[s of] thousands of descriptions, reports [and] answers to questionnaires stored in [a] room twenty cubic metres in size in t[he] National Archive in Koblenz. There [is] also the many-volume documentation [of] expulsion in libraries and on bookshe[lves]. Are the events of that time forgotte[n] were they put out of mind?

Reading through this material, do[es] not the imagination grow dull after re[ad]ing the twenty thousandth case of tor[ture] and cruelty, does not the readines[s to] doubt and repress grow?

Here we can choose an example th[at] one often hears among young peo[ple] who today find it inconceivable that [in] 1945/46 Germans hoped that the R[us]sian occupying forces would stay as lo[ng] as possible because what the Poles a[nd] Czechs did was even worse. They co[m]pletely refused to believe what thous[ands] of Germans experienced: Russians wi[th] arms drawn protecting them from be[ing] tortured and plundered by Polish o[r] Czech military.

This is just an example of the un[im]aginable. Does the passage of time [...] mean that much has been forgotten [...] that even what people themselves lived through is only remembered vaguely when these matters are talked abo[ut] within the family or with those wh[o] went through the same thing?

This is certainly the case, especi[ally] for the majority of victims who w[ere] not prepared to or could not descr[ibe] their experiences in writing or in wo[rds].

Precisely these people, unintentiona[lly] of course, have contributed to the cloud [of] silence that has been draped over the events. However different the moti[ves] may have been, they always led to [the] same result: to forget about these thi[ngs,] let them be.

What did the Report program[me] break — this silence or a real, offic[ial] taboo? The programme certainly did [...] want to to the latter. The reasons wh[y] one might nonetheless get this impres[sion] are many. Did or does such a tabo[o] exist? It would be a terrible simplific[a]tion at least to blame the SPD/FD[P] coalition for this. The National Archi[ve]

Continued on page 11

REFUGEES

Small town handles its quota of boat people



Since 1978 West Germany has accepted 3,438 refugees from Indo-China, most from Vietnam. This represents only one per cent of the huge numbers of people who in the last five years have been driven out by the new communist rulers, especially in Vietnam, on grounds of either politics or race.

Shortly before Christmas the pitiful TV saga of the *Hai Hong*, a dilapidated freighter with 2,500 Vietnamese refugees on board, moved Lower Saxon Prime Minister Ernst Albrecht to accept 1,000 of the helpless passengers in his state.

After months in various reception homes, 852 Vietnamese, mostly members of the Chinese minority, are now living in small groups in small parishes and towns in Lower Saxony.

The remaining 148 refugees will be given accommodation in September. They have so far cost DM8 m. But these figures do not include all the work done by the local councils, which is not quantifiable.

Take, for example, Westerstede between Oldenburg and Wilhelmshaven, a town with a population of 17,000. Westerstede's mayor undertook to find accommodation for twenty to thirty Vietnamese refugees.

But the state government would not provide an intepreter for less than fifty refugees, and interpreters are essential.

So in the end nine families, 49 people, came to Westerstede. A state-paid interpreter, Dr Van-Thinh Nguyen, formerly an employee at the South Vietnamese embassy in Bonn, also moved to the little town.

He has proved an indispensable helper, because none of the 49 spoke English or French well, let alone German.

The 27 adults, 19 schoolchildren and three babies brought nothing at all with them, except their immense relief at being here.

The main burden of the extra work created by their arrival, from finding and furnishing accommodation, to dealing with the Vietnamese cares and wishes, is borne by Herr Engels, director of the town social office.

He is a Westersteder born and bred, he knows everyone and everyone knows him. This means that the townspople are all the more willing to help.

The reponse to his appeal for clothes and furniture was good. The Westersteders' attitude to their exotic guests was not unfriendly.

Their children play with the slim, dark-haired children from the distant tropics and housewives helped the Vietnamese women in an art unknown in the Far East but very important here, that of hanging curtains.

Three Vietnamese families live in robust older flats, the rest live in terraced houses or modern flats with all mod. cons.

They all have refrigerators and those who need a washing machine are given one. Rents, ranging from DM350 to DM450, are paid direct by the social security to the town council.

A family of six then has about DM1,200 to live on. The families will each receive a one-off payment of DM1,000 from donations by the state government in Hanover.

None of the Vietnamese will be able to earn his own money, for the time being at least. The authorities have insisted refugees learn German first.

The Hanover government stipulated that refugees should start learning German seven days after arrival. All are required to attend nine hundred German lessons.

Since 1 May the adults have been learning German from eight until one at the local evening institute. The younger ones especially, who want to learn the language as quickly as possible, study hard.

The older ones seem less enthusiastic. They sit in the back rows and yawn. They told the teacher that they did not need to learn because, according to Far Eastern custom, their children would look after them.

The children of school age go to ordinary schools, where they are assigned to classes on the basis of ability, not age.

One criticism I heard in Westerstede was that "Dr Albrecht in Hanover thought of everything except the children." When it was decreed that parents had to start learning German seven days after their arrival people in Westerstede wondered what their children would do during this time.

Finally, places were somehow found for them in kindergartens. The Hanover government somehow also forgot there were not enough teachers either. Two new ones have since been taken on.

There are still countless difficulties, which could never be overcome without the initiative of individuals.

It was fortunate, for example, that special school teacher Frau Berkenbrink had an aunt in Leipzig who sent her sweets made in Vietnam.

"I thought I might be able to ask my aunt to get me a German-Chinese dictionary. This is the minimum we need for our teaching!"

She got the dictionary and now she can show children who can read the Chinese characters that correspond to a German word.

But on the whole trying to teach these children will be like fetching water in a sieve for some time yet.

But there are many signs of hope. Frau Huynh greets me at the door of her terraced house with "How do you do?" She has four children. Her eldest, aged nine, is struggling to print the names of his family and the neighbours – all in Roman letters and not at all easy for him – with a little printer.

His mother shows me her school exercise book with vocabulary and phrases – the German on the left and the translation, two and three times longer, on the left.

Frau Huynh will probably make the grade here – by December the adults will have completed their nine hundred lessons in German. Then the social office will have to find work for the 27 Vietnamese – fourteen women.

Herr Engels is already worried. "There are going to be problems. What shall I do with the students. They will a hardly find appropriate work. Should I send them to the textils factory in the next town?"

Still, at the moment the 49 in Westerstede are satisfied and in good spirits. The main thing is that they have been rescued, that they are here.

Their health and material well-being are being looked after. But the difference between this place of safety and their homeland is enormous. This country is not made for them.

For the 1978 Vietnamese boat people Germany remains a lifeboat on solid ground, no more.

Ruth Herrmann
(Die Zeit, 6 July 1979)

Refugees: a world problem
Displaced persons
(1979 figures)

1770000 Middle East (Palestinians)
335000 West Asia (Afghans, Pakistanis)
364000 South Asia (Burmese, Pakistanis, Tibetans)
850 000 Africa north of equator (Ethiopians, Ugandans, Saharouis)
733 000 South East Asia (Vietnamese, Cambodians)
730 000 Africa south of equator (Angolans, Ruandans, Burundians, Zimbabwe-Rhodesians)
3207

More aid to refugees

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Land Prime Ministers informed Chancellor Schmidt recently that they were prepared to accept another 4,000 refugees from Vietnam.

The number of refugees from Indo-China in South-East Asian camps rose to 400,000 in June. A recent report by UNRRA in Geneva shows that in June alone 72,000 people from Indo-China entered these camps.

The Bonn government has put DM1.9 m at the disposal of UNRRA for refugees from Indo-China. The EEC donated aid worth DM2 m.

The German Caritas Association and the Diaconical Work asked the Bonn government and the Länder for an immediate and considerable increase in the intake quotas for Vietnamese refugees.

In letters to the Chancellor and the Prime Ministers of the Länder, the presidents of these two church organisations said they could provide the necessary immediate accommodation for such refugees and additional aid.

Caritas intends to set up camps for the 10,000 refugees from Hong Kong.

The Catholic organisation Misereor donated DM60,000 for the purchase of a boat to bring supplies to Vietnamese refugees on the Indonesian Riau islands, near Singapore.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 7 July 1979)

Continued from page 10

study, commissioned in 1969, was completed with evaluations and conclusions five years ago. And has since been kept under lock and key, says TV author Moser.

This is a correct formuation. But this could not prevent the publication of a book identical in every word in 1975, entitled Crimes against the Germans – the Victims in the East. The subtitle described this as "at last the truth which Bonn is." It is published by Wilhelm Ahrens, a publisher in Huglfingen.

Ahrens obviously does not mind his book being described as a pirated edition. Yet this label is inappropriate if we assume that the person or persons who passed on the material to Ahrens were acting from honourable motives.

Showing understanding for both sides does not mean harmonisation at any price. The Bonn government regards the publication of the study as inopportune because it would not help detente, the normalisation of relations with the East bloc states. This is understandable but so too is the reaction of those who regarded it as their duty to ensure that a scientifically grounded statement of the crimes committed against the Germans should be accessible to the public.

One can even go a step further. Those in favour of reconcilation between the Germans on the one hand and the Russians, the Poles and the Czechs on the other must hope and wish that what has been achieved in this sphere to date could stand the test of such a publication.

When one speaks of a test, the core lies in the danger of generalisation. The polish party newspaper Trybuna Ludu gave a frightening example of this a few days ago. Writing of investigations here into crimes against Germans at Lambsdorf camp in Central Silesia in *1945* – at least 6,000 Germans awaiting expulsion starved, died of disease or were beaten to death – the Polish paper attacks "eruptions of hatred against other nations always breaking out anew in the Federal Republic of Germany."

Not only since Holocaust but especially since then we know what an effect the television can have on mass audiences compared to the printed word. How long this effect will last remains to be seen.

If we assume, said Wolfgang Moser in his newspaper interview, that everything connected with the collapse of the Third Reich in these areas has been the subject of taboos for decades, then the core of the matter is this taboo. Given this qualification he is right.

Wolf J. v. Kleist
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 15 July 1979)

■ SOCIETY

Stuttgart social workers lead protest against youth police scheme

Despite the wave of protests, Guntram Palm, Baden-Württemberg Minister of the Interior, was still trying to play the youth police scheme down in April.

He pettifoggingly avoided the question by the Opposition FDP, saying the Land government did not know how the various youth social work organisations regarded the experiment.

He said there was no 'imminent' conflict between the police and social workers in the field of crime prevention.

The criticism from social workers has now become so strong that Palm will find it difficult to re-establish a harmonious working relationship between police and social workers in the field of juvenile crime prevention without conceding that there is a conflict of aims.

More and more groups and organisations involved in social work are taking part in the social workers' protest against the police.

Among these groups are Stuttgart youth centres, the Stuttgart district committee of the Free Welfare Society, the Church-run societies for social group work and the Catholic Youth Association of Stuttgart and Freiburg.

A statewide working party with the slogan No Youth Police in Baden-Württemberg has been formed to coordinate resistance at state level. It has already collected 10,000 signatures and is planning further action.

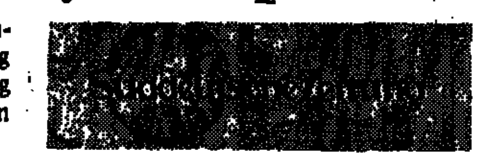
The reason for this protest is an Interior Ministry decree setting up experimental schemes for the more effective prevention of juvenile delinquency in Reutlingen, Freiburg and Stuttgart.

The Ministry justifies this move by pointing out that the number of adolescents probably involved in crime has gone up by 153 per cent, whereas the number of cases brought before courts has risen by only 17 per cent.

In the same period, statistics show that the number of young people suspected of crimes of violence has increased by 220 per cent. The figures for theft and robbery were 290 per cent and 400 per cent respectively.

Social workers say that these data are in places far too general, though they believe a number of the measures proposed in the experimental schemes are sensible.

The CID has proposed the setting up



of special youth sections to deal with crime among adolescents.

The people working here would have special training in youth and family law, criminology and psychology. Their job would be to deal with children and young people who are victims of crimes.

They would also be responsible for criminally endangered or delinquent young people, not just to see they were punished but primarily to help them.

The example is quoted of a fourteen-year-old boy who stole large amounts of money from his future employer for a year. The man then refused to give the boy an apprenticeship but relented after the police youth worker had persuaded him to take the boy on.

This kind of preventive help and method of dealing with cases has the full approval of social workers. Their objections are to the youth policemen envisaged in the scheme. Such policemen should be young, especially suited for this kind of work and "interested in youth work."

The scheme envisages a one-week special training course in which these youth policemen are taught about the causes of juvenile delinquency and how to deal appropriately with young people.

One of this policeman's functions will be to gather "extensive information about the youth scene and youth criminality" in uniform or in plain clothes in order to make possible "locally effective preventive measures."

His task would also be "to make and cultivate contacts in places where young people go" and to keep in touch with youth workers "in constant coordination with the youth section."

The crunch came when youth policemen, hardly distinguishable from ordinary adolescents out of uniform, appeared at Stuttgart youth centres to "cultivate contacts."

It was not until then that youth workers, voluntary youth organisations and even the youth offices found out that the Ministry of the Interior had introduced these schemes.

The various youth organisations were angry that the police had used their facilities without even informing them of their intentions, let alone discussing them.

The social workers at Stuttgart youth centres protested that "the presence of youth police in youth centres means increasing snooping and control not only of the young people but also of the social workers.

"Educational work is endangered, and the relationship of trust between youth workers and young people is destroyed."

Young people from the Hallschlag district of Stuttgart composed a poem about "being surrounded by fourteen youth policemen when they got up in the morning."

They warned that youth police went to youth clubs, adventure playgrounds, pubs and discos. This meant prosecution of young people and children.

Prevention meant the keeping of files on criminally endangered children and young people, but at the end each side had restored its image of the enemy. The youth police denied that they were "spies."

The social workers objected to Robert Ruder, former police tutor and now secretary of state in the Ministry of the Interior, saying that the dispute was "ideologically weighted."

State police chief Alfred Stümper said that many towns had proved that "a healthy and unstilted relationship can be developed between the police and criminally endangered young people." He appealed to the youngsters to "accept our offer."

No appreciable detente took place until the Minister of the Interior, in internal discussions with the youth organisations conceded that it was a mistake not to have consulted or at least informed them in advance.

The section in the decree about gathering information about the "youth scene" was deleted. Furthermore, youth police would only make their contacts enter places run by youth organisations with their agreement. Since then no youth policeman has been seen in a youth centre.

However, this only removed the direct confrontation from the dispute between the police and social workers. The dispute itself continues.

Social workers in outer suburban districts of Stuttgart, who put on projects which, in the words of one social worker, "young people find more interesting than crime" feel directly threatened by this new police scheme.

Efforts to talk to and help young people in the places they go — parks, discotheques and town squares — have been successful and promising. Help offered can range from talks with the parents to help with impending court cases.

However, it takes time before the social worker can gain the trust which enables him to exercise influence.

Social workers in the Rot district of Stuttgart have got four groups off the streets and into a "barracks," a club they run themselves. Weapons and spirits are forbidden.

Here the youngsters plan joint projects such as moped rallies, photography competitions, table tennis tournaments or weekend camps.

Many youngsters regard the barracks as a substitute for home for a while and their experience there encourages them not to give up.

Analyses have shown that where this kind of mobile youth work, based on the American street worker system, occurs, there is no increase in juvenile delinquency.

Social workers believe that if youth police also became involved in street work, as the Interior Ministry decree envisages, then the effect of this work would be destroyed.

Mistrust would make access to youngsters even more difficult, especially if young people "becoming even more a... gather information from their contacts with young people.

Social scientists and practical workers who reject the police concept do so not so much because of the decree itself as the philosophy behind it.

Eduard Vermander of the state CID working group on the introduction of the youth police, has made a statement which has provoked social scientists. His view is that "prevention must be achieved by repression."

Tübingen University education department, led by Professors Hans Thiersch and Andreas Flitner, regards this as "a serious sign of a false direction in dealing with young people." The concept of the youth police was "damaging and dangerous."

Punitive and repressive measures made no contribution to a positive development of the personality but led to young people" becoming even more endangered and even more hopeless."

The more the statements objecting to the youth police 'go into matters of principle,' the clearer it becomes that it is no longer just a matter of the three experimental schemes in Baden-

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■ SCIENCE

Cosmology main topic at Nobel prize winners' congress

Physics dominated the discussion at this year's meeting of Nobel prize winners in Lindau on Lake Constance. It was the 29th annual gathering of Nobel Laureates.

The talk this year was about physics and very little else. The majority of surveys of special areas were absorbing general summaries of developments, though of course there were one of two lectures which were incomprehensible.

On the whole there was plenty to think about and more than enough material to indulge in the kind of intellectual exercise where what seemed certain is called in question.

Eugene P. Wigner of Princeton (Nobel Prize winner in 1963) presented a "fairly definite equation" with the intention — described by him as a "crazy idea" — of questioning some views of the causality principle that are taken for granted.

This principle of the strict connection between cause and effect is most clearly formulated in the demand that, given the present state of the world and knowledge of all natural laws, we should be able to determine the past and the future of the universe.

In his lecture, Wigner said that this statement was mathematically correct yet from a mathematical point of view it was just as nonsensical as saying "that if two and two are five then seven times seven must be twenty-five."

The reason for this is that the world is more closely bound together than has hitherto been assumed. Or put another way, the isolated system in which predictions on the causality principle could be made, is not to be found in the universe.

Wigner, who was born in Budapest, illustrated this by the constant influence on microscopic conditions by macroscopic systems, and vice versa, over long periods of time, whether by quantums of light to be found everywhere, by reflicted radiation or by gravity.

No macroscopic object can be regarded in isolation from its environment, which seems to mean, according to Wigner, that "given the real inner microscopic structure of macroscopic



bodies, the causality principle seems to lose its importance over macroscopic periods."

Paul A. M. Dirac of Tallahassee (Nobel prize winner in 1933) is following with great interest the calculations of the Viking space probe's orbit around Mars.

Dirac again presented his theory, first expounded at Lindau four years ago and now enriched with new reflections, that all large non-dimensional numbers — relative values from atomic or cosmological data — slowly change as the universe gets older. This applies for example to the gravity constant.

One of Dirac's conclusions based on this possibility is that Einstein's system of measurement cannot be identical with the atomic metric system.

If this were correct, two effects could be ascertained by measurement and observation: one would be that atomic clocks would gradually slow down in comparison with ephemeridal time related to the movement of the planets, another would be that a spiral, inward-moving, though scarcely perceptible movement would overlay the normal, gravitational movement of the planets.

Dirac hopes that the analysis of the Viking probe's orbit could prove the latter point. He said that perhaps theEarth was in fact further out, in a cooler orbit, at the time when it is generally considered to have been too hot for life to begin.

Dirac's hypothesis would mean that the universe is about 18 billion years old. His theory of a universe which is extending at a forever slower rate corresponds to the Einstein/de Sitter model.

Hannes Alfvén of Stockholm (Nobel Prize winner in 1970) has a theory which contradicts the view, now regarded as more or less definitive, that space and time began with a big bang.

Alfvén pointed to a series of observations which indicated that the precondition of the big bang theory — namely an evenly formed universe — may not necessarily apply.

The universe could for example quite easily consist of cells of different components, for example some of material and some of anti-material. The thin layer separating one from the other might be virtually imperceptible.

Alfvén said that if the existence of such structures could ever be proved, this would have far-reaching cosmological consequences.

Limits such as those mentioned by Eugene P. Wigner were referred to, in another contect, by Donald A. Glaser of Berkeley University (Nobel Prize winner in 1960).

This context was the optimism with which many people believed that physics could describe all processes in life.

Glaser's basic thought here was that physical equations can always be optimised whereas nature did not optimise but always sought the best, never the best possible, solutions. This was why nature was always full of surprises.

This does not contradict Glaser's basic view that physics is a key science for the understanding of life. He illustrated this with a number of recognised principles the consistent application of which can lead to promising results.

One of these was the universal validity of biochemical laws, the fact that the complexity of biological systems is always the result of combinations (each gene carries only one quality) and that the eradication of errors always has priority — and, as already mentioned, that biological systems are not optimised.

Glaser recommended the use of more systems analysis and the use of a kind of cost benebit calculation for the description and judgement of living systems.

Finally, dealing with the question of whether there are physically describable prediction mechanisms in biology, Glaser said: "I do not think so, because what happens next is a miracle."

R. H. Simen

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 4 July 1979)

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Württemberg but of the political value of social work as against the work of the police and the legal authorities. Social workers are sounding the alarm in the fight against the youth police because they want politicians to give their social work with young people more of a chance, instead of combating symptoms rather than causes with the youth police.

The Catholic Youth Association, along with many other youth organisations in Baden-Württemberg, demands:

"Instead of spending enormous sums on ever more perfect police control of young people, financial and moral support should be given to youth organisations which are trying to improve the opportunities of disadvantaged and endangered young people."

Theo Wurm

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 2 July 1979)

Cologne archaeologists identify Stone Age snail jewellery

West Germans are not alone in liking jewellery from Italy or France. So did the Stone Age hunters of 25,000 years ago.

This is one way of interpreting finds of pierced decorative snails excavated by archaeologists from the Pre- and Early History Department of Cologne University.

They unearthed their finds in an Ice Age camp near a reindeer path between Sprendlingen and Ober-Hilbersheim in the Rhineland-Palatinate. They also found stone tools and the remains of the hunters' kill.

Immediately after the discovery of different kinds of snails the director of the excavation, Professor Gerhard Bosinski of Cologne, concluded that they came from the lower seasands of the Mainz basin.

The Cologne scientist identified most specimens sent to him as snails thirty million years old from the Mainz basin, some of which are still to be found near the Sprendlingen camp and can be collected on nearby slopes today.

To his great surprise he found two species native to the Mediterranean among these specimens — Cyclopeneriteus and Hinia crassata. Neither of these is to be found in this country. How did these snails get here?

Bosinski's theory is that the Ice Age hunters who once had their camp near Sprendlingen collected tertiary snails from the Mainz basin on their wanderings and used them as jewellery.

They then exchanged these snails with other hunters whom they met on their wanderings. This is how they came into the possession of snails from the Mediterranean areas.

Snails from the Mainz area have been found throughout Central Europe, in Switzerland and in Czechoslovakia in the course of excavations in Ice Age settlements.

Archaeologists had long known of this kind of barter in the early Stone Age. The Sprendlingen site was the first hunters' resting place near tertiary snails from the Mainz basin.

Up to now there had been several finds of snail shells in Alzey and Wallertheim in the Rhineland-Palatinate, but



no traces of human settlements in the area.

The Sprendlingen reindeer hunters sewed native or Mediterranean snails onto their clothes or made chains with them, while their contemporaries living a thousand kilometres further south adorned themselves with snails from home and "foreign" snails from Rhenish Hesse.

On the Italian riviera there are caves containing thousands of local snails — some drilled through, some unworked. These adornments, which were possibly used as money, were common and widely used.

Bosinski reckons that barters took place in base camps. Hunters indulged in a number of activities in such camps. They married and worshipped there.

These snails could hardly have been brought back over the Alps at that period of the Ice Age. Like the higher central chain of mountains, they were iced over. Alpine glaciers extended far into the forelands.

Archaeologists speculate that other routes were used, for instance from Marseilles up the Rhone, via Dijon and the Burgundy Gate.

Chains found in graves how that the Ice Age hunters were extremely skilful makers of jewellery. Our ancestors found out 25,000 years ago with one form of mussel that all they needed to do was grind down a few millimetres and a circular opening would appear.

Other pieces were pierced by small flintstones so that they could be strung along in chains or tied to clothes.

In other cases snail shells were cut open at a certain place and they could then be threaded on. This system was used on the 25,000-year-old site at Linsenberg near Mainz discovered in 1921.

Ice Age men found convoluted shells, so-called elephants' tusks, even easier to work. They have holes at both ends. These could be threaded on in the shape of trumpets, and the chains thus made were extremely beautiful.

Our ancestors of 25,000 years ago, hunters of reindeers, wild horses and mammoths, were already vain.

Monika Ploch

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 6 July 1979)

ETHOLOGY

Bavarian behaviourist investigates rat race at kindergarten



Left to themselves children are anything but equal. As early as at kindergarten social hierarchies are formed, with children ranging in status from managers to outsiders, from organisers to wallflowers.

Barbara Hold of the Max Planck Ethology Institute in Seewiesen, Bavaria, has investigated ways in which a child's rank is manifested in its behaviour.

She observed playgroups at five different kinds of kindergarten, three in Germany and two in Japan. The same behaviour patterns according to rank were everywhere apparent.

To work out the games children play, the exact hierarchy in each group had to be ascertained. This entailed a methodical problem, Dr Hold explains.

Hierarchies can be established along various lines. Aggressive traits can be taken as the yardstick, for instance, with a pecking order being inferred from the frequency and direction of aggressive behaviour.

But a child's popularity can also be taken as the criterion, as can its ability to impose its own will on others.

Each of these criteria establishes a different hierarchy. In one group the most aggressive child can hold pride of place, in another the most popular.

So Dr Hold's aim was to ascertain a criterion of rank that was as appropriate as possible to children while at the same time being as universally valid as possible. It had to be applicable to each group regardless of the style of leadership preferred by its highest ranker, and attention seemed the best bet.

By this token the high rankers are the children who command most attention and are frequently at the centre of interest. The low rankers are children to whom the others seldom pay much attention.

The attention yardstick thus reflects the esteem in which one child is held by the others.

So Dr Hold established group hierarchies by awarding a point to each child that was looked at simultaneously by at least three of its playmates.

After an observation period of three weeks the league tables clearly indicated the group hierarchy. The leaders were those who had often been in the limelight, while children who had seldom commanded attention brought up the rear.

The groups were all mixed, boys and girls aged three to six. Dr Hold made her observations at a non-authoritarian, a conventional (authoritarian) and a Protestant kindergarten in Germany.

In Japan she chose a Montessori kindergarten and a kindergarten attached to Kyoto Institute of Education. Yet despite differences in cultural background and educational technique the results tallied in all cases.

Take, for instance, the allocation of rank. In each group there was a relatively small number of high rankers and a majority of medium and low rankers.

In other words, few children commanded much attention, whereas many commanded little.

How do high-ranking children differ in behaviour from the lesser breed? Dr Hold demonstrated that the only difference is the frequency with which certain behaviour patterns occur.

Individual behaviour patterns can, moreover, be classified as high-ranking or low-ranking in accordance with quantitative (not qualitative) features.

They are high-ranking when they are more common among high-ranking children and low-ranking when preferred by low rankers.

Surprisingly enough, the highest rankers are by no means the most aggressive. The top notch is almost exclusively occupied by children who frequently feature as organisers or initiators.

Let us call them the managers. They are active and imaginative and well able to put their ideas into practice by suggesting, then organising, games in which they allot others their roles.

Behaviour. patterns typical of the manager type are demands, bans, permission or instruction. They are shown many things, given presents and often asked for advice.

Even when they start playing, painting or pursuing some other hobby by themselves others frequently imitate them.

These natural leaders are followed in the children's hierarchy by the aggressor. He threatens, drives away, hits or kicks the others, taking away or destroying their toys.

These acts are usually levelled at lower-ranking children who then take their punishment. Higher-ranking children, on the other hand, nearly always take up the challenge, even though they may cut the poorer figure physically.

Instead of the physical strength they lack in comparison they deploy courage and self-assurance, which often win the day.

Other high-ranking behaviour patterns include the protector, the settler of arguments and the group spokesman. And generally speaking, high rankers prefer group games in which they can demonstrate their leadership qualities.

They also move around frequently, from room to (always assuming there is a choice), feeling self-assured everywhere and moving swiftly and without showing signs of compulsion.

Low rankers, on the other hand, mostly stay at their favourite spots, often near a wall where they are least in everyone else's way.

They shun contact and group activities and mostly play with only selected other children or the kindergarten teacher.

In addition to these general symptoms a variety of low-ranking roles can also be listed. There is the imitator, the friendly child, the insecure child seeking recognition, the scared child, the onlooker and the outsider.

Imitating, says Barbara Hold, must not in this context be confused with aping others. The imitator seriously imitates a manner of speech, an activity or a game and will be agreeable to suggestions.

The children imitated are almost invariably higher rankers, a sign that low rankers prefer to pay attention to the higher ranks.

The friendly child offers help or presents, obeys demands and commands and tries a winsome smile when threatened.

The child in search of recognition will ask what needs doing and what it is allowed to do. It talks a lot and shows you what it is doing. Showing, asking and talking are, like imitating, forms of behaviour characteristic of medium-rank children.

Yet they are rated lower because, in a majority of cases, they are aimed upwards, at a higher category of child.

Watching is the most characteristic activity of lower-rank children. It is typical of newcomers to kindergarten, who are usually on the lowest rung of the social ladder.

These children will watch the others, often with their backs to the wall and their hands firmly clasping a chair or table.

Their first concern is to get to know the new environment and its group structure. But low rankers generally keep an eye on the higher-ups to see what they are doing.

Outsiders are even further afield and stand on their own apart from the group. Occasionally a high-ranking child assumes this role too, when it has been unable to gain leadership of a playgroup, for instance.

In such circumstances the high ranker will sooner don the outsider's role than follow the instructions of others.

On average a child's rank depends on its age and kindergarten experience. The old hands are usually the highest rankers. But there are also differences according to sex.

Boys hold fights more often than girls to determine rank. They usually take the form of wrestling bouts. Girls are no less aggressive, but seldom physically. They mostly keep their distance and conduct arguments verbally.

Rank is fundamentally important for learning at kindergarten. The attention criterion shows that by watching and imitating others learning is from above to below.

High-ranking children, mostly older and more experienced, are rated exemplary. They teach games (and behaviour patterns) to younger, as yet lower-rank, children.

In this way genuine traditions can be handed on from "generation" to "generation" at kindergarten.

High rankers also take on important educational tasks and resolve conflicts as protectors and argument settlers.

In this connection Karl-Heinz Leupold, an associate of Dr Hold's, made an interesting observation:

"When adults intervene in an argument among children, it usually takes longer to settle than if the children were to settle matters themselves.

"Intervention often blocks behaviour patterns that would otherwise be typical of the occasion, and adults are frequently unaware of the details of the case.

"Their well-meaning help is felt to be interference or, worse still, an injustice."

So it is easy to see why aggression is less important as a criterion of rank than positive leadership qualities, such as initiative, imagination, organisational talent and the ability to mediate in an argument.

It is all part of the socially stabilising effect and function of rank as a whole. Rank is, moreover, not rigid; it is dynamic in principle.

"A child can hold different rank in different groups. It will in each case adopt the behaviour characteristic of its rank."

Dr Hold rates rank and hierarchy the expression of an innate disposition such as has been shown to exist in higher animals that live a social life.

This is why ranks automatically take shape in children's groups unless they are artificially suppressed. They are a true sign of humanity. *Walter Frese/MPG*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 7 July 1979)

Mum and Dad are kids' favourites

Disco king John Travolta and pop stars of his ilk are not the people West German youngsters would soonest be like. They model their behaviour mainly on their parents.

A survey by the Kehrmann Institute of Hamburg among 2,000 fifteen- to 25-year-olds for *Quick* magazine published on 4 July reaches the following conclusions.

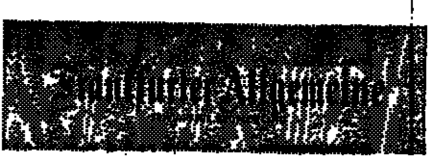
Twenty-seven-and-a-half per cent of sons and 32.7 per cent of daughters say their relationship with their father is excellent, while 53.8 per cent of sons and 47.7 per cent of daughters reckon their relations with "the old man" are good.

Mothers rated even more highly, the survey revealed. *dpa/ddp*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 5 July 1979)

SPORT

Symposium gets the 'dope' on drug-taking in sport



Now that a few centimetres or a fraction of a second make the difference between victory and defeat in top-class sport, means which can improve the athletes' performance even slightly play an increasingly important part.

Professional cyclists seem to be particularly prone to taking such pharmaceutical performance boosters or at any rate cyclists seem to be mentioned most often when doping in sport is being discussed.

A new trend has also been observed among cyclists, that of taking suprarenal hormones of the corticoid type. This presents difficulties to the experts, as became evident — yet again — at a recent symposium of the National Olympic Committee held in conjunction with the Max Planck Society and the National Institute of Sports Science.

There are good grounds for worry, because there are signs that sportsmen in other disciplines are also using these substances, which are not to be found on any list of banned drugs — for the simple reason that these substances cannot be detected, they mix with the hydrocortisone produced by the body in the bloodstream.

Professor Manfred Donike, expert on doping and the analysis of doping in sport at the Cologne Sports Science University, emphatically put his viewpoint that what cannot be detected should not be forbidden.

There is no doubt that the use of cortisone is extremely dangerous for athletes. These dangers are graphically illustrated by accounts from the professional cycling scene. Sports doctors persistently noticed that these professionals suffered from infections often lasting up to eight weeks which could not be treated by conventional medical methods. Doctors supposed that the reason for this was that the cyclists were on corticoid drugs. It is known that cortisone reduces immunity and makes the body susceptible to infections.

Another observation was that bone fractures among professional cyclists took an unusually long time to heal. The special effects of corticoids could be responsible for this too.

There were some particularly spectacular improvements in performance among a number of professional cyclists. But the French sports paper *L'Equipe* reports that between 1975 and 1978, 17 cyclists aged between 30 and 40 died for unknown reasons.

One possible explanation for this: corticoids, when used over a long period, reduce the body's stress reaction. This reduction becomes apparent when the person stops using the drugs. This is why in many clinics patients dependent on cortisone are given a special card which they must keep on them at all times. If such a patient has an accident, his life can depend on his getting his usual dose of cortisone.

The question whether cortisone drugs in fact improve stamina is still completely open. Up to now there have only been individual observations which do not constitute scientific proof.

The symposium was told of three cases where top athletes achieved world-class performances after taking cortisone. These same athletes performed poorly only a few weeks later. These athletes had been given cortisone injections not to boost their performances but as treatment for severe hay fever which was affecting breathing.

The effects of cortisone or the regulator hormone ACTH produced in the pituitary gland have not been adequately studied. The fundamental research has not yet been done.

Professor I. Hammerstein, chairman of the Permanent Steroid Toxicology Commission of the German Endocrinology Society, stressed that bodily performance was not necessarily connected with an increase in cortisone production. Increased cortisone production had only been recorded in the case of mountain climbers.

The idea of using cortisone at all to boost performance may be connected with the euphoric effect which is also produced by ACTH. Practical experience shows that often only a few successes are needed for a sportsman to regard a certain substance as his secret weapon.

Oral propaganda and manipulation by sports officials often leads to new drugs becoming widespread. This "collective madness" has often been observed among cyclists. A cyclist who once took cortisone as treatment for hay fever and then raced very well gave away his secret to his envious colleagues and thus created a new form of doping. Today sportsmen inject one another with these substances without even consulting team doctors.

Cortisone has an effect on the muscles which is anything but performance-boosting. One of its classical side-effects is myopathy, which means that the muscles tire more easily.

Another serious side-effect is that when taken over long periods cortisone decalcifies the bones and this can lead to spinal collapse. This is a familiar phenomenon from the cortisone treatment of cancer patients.

Experts agree that something has to be done to stop the abuse of cortisone drugs and ACTH in sport. The dangers are greater than with anabolic steroids, the "muscle pills."

However, getting this problem under control is another matter altogether. Laboratory controls are of little help here.

One possible method, suggested by endocrinologists, would be to stop using cortisone for normal therapeutic purposes and withdraw it from the market. It would thus be more difficult to get hold of than it is today.

Jochen Aumiller

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 July 1979)

Bonn hearing on sport for children

The CDU recently conducted a public hearing on the effect of intensive sport on children. The meeting, in the Bonn Konrad Adenauer House, was attended by scientists, doctors, sports, officials, trainers and politicians.

Few of us will forget the face of the little Russian gymnast Olga Korbut as her trainer urged her on to more somersaults on the horizontal bars. And when Nadia Comaneci won gold in Montreal, viewers' admiration for her gymnastic brilliance was tinged also with pity.

It has long been know that children are often forced to sporting achievements. It is also no secret that damage to the body can also be accompanied by psychological defects.

This criticism is often played down by those involved in sport, Professor Nitsch, President of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, has said that it is wrong to say that prepubertal children voluntarily train for long periods. Usually the influence of a leader or person they relate to plays a crucial part.

Professor Cotta, head of Heidelberg University Orthpaedic Clinic, showed slides and presented statistics to show how dangerous high-level competitive sport can be at an early age. The statistics were based on the treatment of 5,000 athletes.

Aml 47.8 per cent of the top class sportsmen suffered from damage to the spine (the figure for those who play sport for fun is 11.8 per cent). 16.6 per cent of the sportsmen had a so-called round back, four per cent suffered from breaks in the spine.

Cotta said that the following sportsmen were particularly endangered: gymnasts, rowers, pole-vaulters, table tennis players, trampolinists, divers, javelin, throwers, weightlifters and archers.

There is no arguing about the conclusion to be drawn from this: children should not specialise in one particular sport too early.

It is well known that parents often tolerate or even encourage their children being forced to sporting achievements.

Professor Wildor Hollmann, director of the Cologne Institute of Circulation Research and Sports Medicine, told of the mother of an Austrian sportsman who wanted him to recommend a performance-boosting drug. He also told of the mother of a 16-year-old ice hockey player who wanted her son to attend a training course when he needed a tonsil operation.

Hollmann found, in a four-year survey, that no internal injuries occurred with six- to eight-year-old children who did large amounts of swimming or running provided this training was supervised by an expert.

However, Hollmann warned against making children take part in sporting disciplines for which they were not suited, for example the 400 metres, for which their metabolism was not developed enough. Hollmann pointed out that in the USA weight training for adolescent weightlifters was banned.

To prevent the abuse of children in sport, the German Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has called for the raising of age-limits in competitions.

The reaction of the German Athletics Association was swift: from next year, those wanting to compete in international junior competitions will have to be at least sixteen and there will be no school championships on a national level from next year.

Gymnasts are less receptive to such calls. Hanna Stobbe, who is responsible for women's gymnastics, says that without early specialisation top-class performances in gymnastics are not possible. The inconsistency of her thinking is clear when she then says that she does not want a hunt for medals at any price.

How is the abuse of children in sport to be prevented?

Professor Cotta called for systematic clinical examinations and testingof sporting equipment. Medical care still seems to be inadequate in top-class sport.

Anne Michler, 16, German champion in artistic gymnastics, says that she was not given a thorough medical examination until she was became a member of the national squad. Monika Stützle, former ice-sprinter and now a trainer, says she did not get any medical care until she had been performing at top levels for a year and a half.

Professor Hollmann is fully aware of the dangers of top-class sport for children. But he too cast oil on the waters of criticism: "The damage caused by lack of movement is far more serious than that caused by too much sport."

Jupp Müller

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 5 July 1979)